

REVIEW OF THE AFRICAN UNION ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE (EOAI) STRATEGIC PLAN (2015-2025)



Coordinated by: **Biovision Africa Trust**



Funded by
the European Union

Disclaimer

This publication has been realized within the DeSIRA-LIFT project financed by the European Commission / DG INTPA (FOOD/2021/424-11) and implemented by member organisations of the Agrinatura (CIRAD, ISA, NRI, SLU, WUR) and EFARD networks (COLEAD). The content of this publication is the sole responsibility of the author(s) and does not necessarily represent the views of Agrinatura, EFARD or the European Commission.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full Name
AbTF	Aid by Trade Foundation
AE	Agroecology
AEHT	Agroecology Hub in Tanzania
AEI	Agro-Ecological Intensification
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AFD	French Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFRONET	Africa Organic Network
AGRECOL	Association for Agriculture and Ecology
AMSD	Association Malienne pour la Solidarité et le Développement
APP	Agriculture Promotion Policy
ARDP	Agricultural and Rural Development Policy
ARSO	Africa Standardization Organization
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC-DARBE	African Union Commission - Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
BDS	Business Development Services
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BOAM	Burundi Organic Agriculture Movement
BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CARDESA	Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CECEEDE	Center for Economic Empowerment and Development
CEFROHT	Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights

CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Comité permanent inter-État de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel
CIPCRE	Le Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création
CIRAD	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
CLOs	Country Lead Organizations
CNCR	National Council for Concertation and Cooperation of Rural People
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COROS	Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards
CRASTEDA ONG	Research and Technical Assistance Center for the Environment and Agricultural Development
CROPSEC	Conseil Régional des Organizations Paysannes de la Partie Septentrionale du Cameroun
CSC	Continental Steering Committee
CSI-GDT	Cadres D'investissement Durable Pour La Gestion Durable Des Terres
DG INTPA	Directorate-General for International Partnerships
DyTAES	Dynamics for an Agroecological Transition in Senegal
EAC	East African Community
EAOPS	East Africa Organic Products Standard
EAOS	East African Organic Standard
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECOWAP	Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENABEL	Belgian Development Agency
EOA - I	Ecological Organic Agricultural Initiative
EOA	Ecological Organic Agricultural
ESAFF	Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FENAB	Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture Biologique

FMSS	Farmer Managed Seed Systems
GADD	Groupement d'Appui pour le Développement Durable
GEF-LDCF	Global Environment Facility-Least Developed Country Fund
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
IAVCP	Investments in Agroecology Value Chains Project
IC&E	Information, Communication and Extension
ICE	Institute for Culture and Ecology
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IED	Environnement et Développement en Afrique
IER	L'Institut d'Economie Rurale
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Center
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INADES	Formation Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social
INRAB	National Agriculture Research Institute of Benin
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
KCOA	Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa
KCSAP	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Program
KHCA	Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Central Africa
KHEA	Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa
KHNA	Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in North Africa
KHSA	Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Southern Africa
KHWA	Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in West Africa
KIOF	Kenya Institute of Organic Farming
KOAN	Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network
KTA	Knowledge Transfer Africa

LED	Liechtenstein Development Service
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MELCA	Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action
MSME	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
NAEB	National Agricultural Export Development Board
NAFSIPs	National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plans
NAP	National Agriculture Policy
NAPA	National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change
NAPP	Nigeria Agriculture Promotion Policy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEOAS	National Ecologic Agriculture Strategy
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NFP	National Fertilizer Policy
NOAB	National Organic Agriculture Board
NOAM	National Organic Agriculture Movement
NOAN	Nigeria Organic Agriculture Network
NOGAMU	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda
NRCN	Natural Resources Conservation Network
NSCs	National Steering Committees
OA	Organic Farming
OBEPAB	Beninese Organization for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture
OPAP	Organic Policy Action Paper
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PAGRIS	Soil Fertility Stewardship Project
PAN	Pesticide Action Network
PANA	Programme d'Action National d'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques
PASCIb	Platform of Civil Society Actors of Benin

PDA	Politique de Développement Agricole
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PGS	Participatory Guarantee Systems
PIPs	Pillar Implementing Partners
PNCC	Politique Nationale sur les Changements Climatiques
PNIA	National Agricultural Investment Plan
PNIASAN	National Agricultural Investment Program for Food Security and Nutrition
PNIP-SA	Plan National d'Investissement Prioritaire dans le Secteur Agricole au Mali
PNISA	Plan National d'Investissement dans le Secteur Agricole
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
ProCISA	Green Innovation Centers for the Agricultural and Food Sector
PSDSA	Benin's Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agricultural Sector
PSE	Plan for an Emerging Senegal
QDS	Quality Declared Seed
R&AK	Research and Applied Knowledge
RADD	Réseau des Acteurs du Développement Durable
RAIP	Regional Agricultural Investment Plans
ReCs	Regional Economic Communities
ReSAKSS	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System
ROAM	Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC FNSS	Southern African Development Community Food and Nutrition Security Strategy.
SADC MAPP	Southern African Development Community Multi-Country Agricultural Productivity Programme.
SAGE	Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment
SAILD	Service d'Appui aux Initiatives Locales de Développement
SAIP	Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food Security Project

SAOSO	South African Organic Sector Organisation
SAT	Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania
SCALA	Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRPEAO	Regional Strategy for the Promotion of Fertilizers in West Africa
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
SSPI	Seed Sector Performance Index
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
SUA	Sokoine University of Agriculture
TAFS	Transitions to Agroecological Food Systems
TALIRI	Tanzania Livestock Research Institute
TARI	Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute
TCP	Technical Cooperation Project
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TOAM	Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement
ToToF _s	Training of Team of Facilitators
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UMU	Uganda Martyrs University
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
UPSB	Union des Producteurs de Sésame de Banamba
UTAB	University of Technology and Arts of Byumba
UWAMWIMA	Umoja Wa Wakulima Wa Matunda Na Mboga Wilaya Ya Magharibi
VCMD	Value Chain and Market Development
WECARD	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
ZOPPA	Zimbabwe Organic Producers' and Processors' Association

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This report presents findings of the review of the implementation of the strategic plan (2015-2025)² of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I). The findings will inform the AUC, BvAT, and DG INTPA (EC) of the extent to which African Union Member States have prioritized ecologically and organically sound strategies and practices and contributed to resilient and vibrant EOA systems for enhanced food and nutrient security, and sustainable development in Africa. The report concludes by formulating recommendations for the upcoming strategic plan (2025-2035).

1.2 Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA)

EOA is a holistic production management system that considers the agro-ecosystem in all its diversity. It focuses on attaining a balanced food system designed to enhance biological diversity, promotes healthy use of soils, air, and water, relying on renewable resource in locally organized agricultural systems. EOA systems increase soil biological activity, maintain long-term fertility, relies on biodiversity, ecological processes and cycles to sustain the health of soils, ecosystems, and people while minimizing the addition of external inputs like agrochemicals and inorganic fertilizers that may have adverse effects on these systems. It combines modern science, innovative practices, and tradition to promote good relationships of the various environmental elements. Some of the farming practices in EOA include agroecology, organic farming, sustainable agriculture, bio-intensive agriculture, permaculture and ecological farming¹.

1.3 About the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) was established following the African Union Heads of State and Governments' decision on organic farming, made during their Eighteenth Ordinary Session from January 24-28, 2011 (EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII)). Launched in 2011 with the backing of the African Union Commission, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the initiative aims to integrate Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural systems by 2025. The primary objectives of the EOA-I are to enhance agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition, market access, and sustainable development across Africa.

The EOA-I mission is to advance ecologically sustainable strategies and practices among various stakeholders, including producers, processors, marketers, and policymakers, to enhance livelihoods, reduce poverty, ensure food security, and protect the environment. Its execution strategy focuses on incorporating EOA into policies and practices through multi-stakeholder-managed platforms at national, regional, and continental levels that are underpinned by experiential knowledge and scientific research. This approach is bolstered by capacity building for stakeholder groups, robust information and communication efforts, market systems approach, policy and advocacy dialogues, strategic networking and partnerships, and other initiatives coordinated at national, regional, and continental levels.

¹ https://orgprints.org/id/eprint/52797/1/arbenz-et-al-2022-EOA-I-support-phase-2-Eval-report-FiBL_Abacus65233.pdf

1.4 Purpose and Scope of the Review

According to the TOR, the main objective of this assignment is to review the implementation of the strategic plan (2015-2025)² of the EOA Initiative and to inform AUC, key stakeholders of the initiative, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT), and DG INTPA (EC) the extent to which AU Member States have prioritized ecologically and organically sound strategies and practices. An additional objective is to formulate recommendations for the upcoming strategic plan (2026-2035). In particular, the review addressed the following questions:

1. What are the current policy frameworks and strategies that have been developed in line with or to contribute to the EOA strategic plan (2015-2025) in African countries? To what extent are these a direct result of the EOA Initiative?
2. What interventions and/or activities have been conducted to foster awareness, provide technical support, and advocate for supportive policies for adopting Agroecology to be scaled up at national levels?
3. What data types on EOA and its contribution to nutrition, food security, and climate change are currently being monitored?
4. What monitoring system(s) has or have been erected to evaluate progress against the three CAADP indicators on EOA (i.e., 1. Total arable land under organic fertilizers; 2. Status of Farmer Managed Seed Systems integration into policy instruments; 3. Share of agricultural land under EOA/Agroecology practices).
5. What is the continental, regional, and national progress of EOA-I against its strategic objectives? i.e.,
 - a) To carry out holistic demand-driven, multi-disciplinary, gender-sensitive, and participatory research, training and extension in support of EOA by 2025.
 - b) To collate, package, and disseminate research findings and other relevant information to various stakeholders using various approaches and channels of communication by 2025.
 - c) To increase the share of quality EOA products at national, regional, and international markets through value chain analysis and market development by 2025.
 - d) To foster and strengthen synergies among stakeholders in Africa through building networks and partnerships by 2025.
 - e) To lobby and advocate for the mainstreaming of EOA programmes, policies, and plans in the agriculture sector as well as other related sectors by 2025.
 - f) To strengthen the governance, management, and operations of EOA institutions in Africa for effective functioning and service delivery by 2025.

Based on the assessment results (question 1 to 5 above), what is recommended for the new strategic plan (2025-2035) in terms of key priority areas, strategic objectives, and strategic approaches?

The assignment has presented the answers to the questions above in four parts namely i) situational analysis, ii) review of the 2015-2025 strategic plan, iii) recommendations for the 2025-2035 strategic plan, and iv) a policy brief derived from the situational and the strategic plan review- (see chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this report.)

CHAPTER 2: APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Approach

The review’s approach entailed a comprehensive review of relevant literature to inform the areas of inquiry and derive data collection tools. A mixed method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative assessment tools, was employed to address guiding questions comprehensively. Data collected through desk review were validated through purposely selected Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), ensuring accuracy and reliability.

Most of the review was desk-based and focused on both implementation Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the initiative to capture and ensure the inclusion of milestones by the mixture of projects involved in each phase, including the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture & Agroecology for Africa (KCOA) funded by GIZ. The desk review comprised several documents available in the public domain, or knowledge products (reports, studies, etc.) developed under the EOA-I program. A shortlist of these resources is compiled in Annex 1.

The objectives of the assessment were delineated into specific areas of inquiry (see Annex 2) for each assignment task, providing a structured framework that guided the sourcing and analysis of data, ultimately culminating in the delivery of a succinct report.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Overview of Data Collection Methods

The review mainly adopted a qualitative methodology for data collection. This approach addressed all areas of inquiry and scope of work, employing a variety of methods including literature review, Key Informant Interviews (KII), and an online survey to gather rich, credible data. Results from the review outputs were presented in update meetings and disseminated through emails and virtual meetings, with feedback from these sessions integrated into the design, processes, and the final report.

2.2.2 Data Points

Data was collected from 15 countries distributed across the 5 political regions of Africa - Eastern, West, Central, North and Southern Africa (Table 1). All the 9 EOA project countries- Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Benin, Mali, Senegal, and Nigeria participated in the study. The table below provides the selected countries across the five regions.

Table 1: Selected Countries

Region	Countries selected
Western Africa	Benin, Mali, Senegal, Nigeria
Central Africa	Cameroon

Eastern Africa	Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda,
Southern Africa	South Africa, Zimbabwe, Madagascar
Northern Africa	Egypt

Data was collected from multiple sources drawn from continental, regional, country, and development partners. At the continental level, interviews were conducted with the CSC Secretariat, and BvAT as the EOA Executing Agency. At the regional level, interviews were conducted with the Economic Commission for West African States (ECOWAS). At the country level, data was gathered through interviews with Ministries of Agriculture, organizations active in AE and EOA spaces such as National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs), Country Lead Organizations (CLOs), National Steering Committees (NSCs), and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs), civil society, and higher learning institutions. Additionally, interviews were conducted with the donor community including the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), and GIZ. Most respondents were reached through virtual meetings via strategic Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and an online survey questionnaire responded to by the EOA-I partners. A shortlist of people interviewed per each category is presented in Annex 3 of this report.

2.3.3 Methodological Steps

The review employed a five-phased methodological approach, encompassing (a) inception, (b) field investigation, (d) synthesis, feedback and validation, and (e) final report. In the inception, initial meetings were held with BvAT's EOA Programme team, work plan developed, and key project documents and literature related to agricultural policy and investment strategies were reviewed. The field investigation phase utilized desk reviews and Key Informant Interviews to collect, analyze and validate data.

During the synthesis phase, data was analyzed and presented in various formats, including narratives that summarized key themes and learning questions aligned with the assignment's objectives. The feedback phase involved presenting draft reports to stakeholders, incorporating their feedback, and conducting a validation workshop. Finally, the final report phase involved integrating final comments and presenting the completed reports to AUC, BvAT, and DG INTPA (EC) teams for adoption.

CHAPTER 3: SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

3.1 Continental Overview of EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Agriculture in the Africa continent plays a key role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The sector’s potential to drive economic transformation is immense, given Africa’s vast arable land, favorable climates, and growing demand for food. The sector contributes up to 35 percent of Africa’s GDP and provides livelihood to more than 50% of the continent’s population². Under the Africa Agenda 2063, agriculture is envisioned as a key driver of inclusive and sustainable growth³. The agenda emphasizes modernizing agricultural practices, enhancing productivity and integrating technology to create a robust and resilient agricultural sector. This aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty (SDG 1) and achieve zero hunger (SDG 2). However, the indicators of agriculture growth, which include increase in yield per unit area, have been associated with extensive soil damage, huge biodiversity loss, and negative impacts on natural resources. This calls for an approach that not only focuses on yield but also the impact of agricultural systems on natural resources. EOA is in tandem with this need, offering sustainable agriculture growth, not only in yield but also creating harmony with nature.

At the continental level, various strategies and policy documents exist to support sustainable agricultural development, although they are not explicitly meant to directly guide and support EOA. They range from agricultural, environmental, and industrial policies as well as institutional frameworks and strategic plans. Some of the continental EOA policy frameworks and strategies are discussed in the table below.

Table 2: Continental policy and strategies framework

Policy frameworks & strategies	Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) of 2004 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While CAADP does not explicitly use the term "ecological organic agriculture (EOA)," it promotes principles that align with EOA; it emphasizes sustainable agricultural practices, environmental conservation and resilience to climate change. The CAADP member states prioritized implementation of the Maputo 10% budget allocation to agriculture and aimed at achieving a minimum annual agricultural growth rate of 6% through (i) extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems, (ii) improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access, (iii) increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency crises, and (iv) improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G) of 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The framework addresses challenges of land grabbing and insecurity of tenure guided by Agroecology and Food Sovereignty principles, namely the national strategy for sustainable agricultural

² <https://www.whitecase.com/insight-our-thinking/africa-focus-summer-2023-africas-agricultural-revolution>

³ <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/goals>

	<p>development and respect for land rights of women (Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, 2014).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU Agenda 2063 (endorsed in 2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is Africa's blueprint for development over the next 50 years that aims to improve access to markets and promote sustainable agriculture through science, technology, innovation, and indigenous knowledge. Indigenous knowledge is a key element of agroecology, blending traditional wisdom with modern scientific understanding to create sustainable agricultural practices⁴. The launch of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy for 2015-2025 highlighted the importance of agroecology and nutrition-sensitive agriculture in achieving improved food and nutrition outcomes. The signing of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) by COMESA, EAC, and SADC presented opportunities for EAC countries to boost their regional trade in organic products, contributing to the advancement of agroecology.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU Heads of States and Governments Decision on Ecological Organic Agriculture of 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government Decision in 2011 marked a significant step toward promoting sustainable agriculture on the continent. This decision recognizes the positive role played by EOA in addressing food insecurity and poverty in Africa. The AU EOA Initiative (2015- 2025) embraces principles and practices that promote the ecological balance and resilience of agricultural systems (AFSIA, 2017).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Common Position on UNFSS outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) outcomes aim at galvanizing and pushing the world to take action to transform the world's food systems as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The position emphasizes sustainable transformation, inclusivity, and shared prosperity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AfCFTA aims to create a single market for goods and services across Africa, enhancing economic growth, reducing poverty, and improving food security by eliminating trade barriers⁵. This offers a significant opportunity to the EOA Initiative to facilitate access to larger markets for organic and agroecological smallholder farmers, support the development of regional value chains that prioritize sustainable practices and foster policy harmonization among Africa's Member States.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nairobi Declaration on Soil Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nairobi Declaration on Soil Health, adopted at the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in May 2024, outlines a 10-year action plan to rebuild soil fertility and increase yield responses across Africa; rebuilding soil fertility and improving soil management practices which directly promotes EOA⁶.

⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3d7778b3-8fba-4a32-8d13-f21dd5ef31cf/content>

⁵ <https://au.int/en/treaties/agreement-establishing-african-continental-free-trade-area>

⁶ <https://au.int/en/decisions/african-leaders-nairobi-declaration-climate-change-and-call-action-preamble>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in 2023, the declaration calls for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, which include sustainable land management, conservation agriculture and agroforestry, practices that are central to EOA for enhancing soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Abuja Declaration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While this primarily emphasizes the use of fertilizers, the declaration recognizes both inorganic and organic sources in improving soil health and crop yields⁷.

The African Union has developed a system of measuring progress of countries in EOA based on five criteria, including presence of organic policy, product standard, government support for the sector, well-organized farmers and private sector involvement, and developed domestic and export markets for organic products. On this basis, in 2019, countries were categorized ranging from Type 1 (Advanced EOA sector) to Type 5 (Awaiting inspiration) as illustrated in the table3 below ^{8,9} While the classification provides direction for advancing the EOA sector, a reassessment of countries' current progress could offer valuable insights and ensure the framework remains aligned with evolving realities.

Table 3: Typology for EOA and countries selected for review.

Typology for EOA	Type	Countries selected for this review	Other counties	Description
Advanced EOA country	1	Madagascar, Uganda	Morocco; Tunisia	They have an organic policy, a product standard, well-organized farmers (or National Organic Agriculture Movement-NOAM), private sector involvement, developed domestic and export markets for organic products and government is supporting the sector,
Active EOA Country	2	Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Senegal	Burkina Faso; Ghana; Mauritius; São Tomé & Príncipe, Seychelles; Sudan; Togo	They have some government support, there is a policy or strategy underway, a strong NOAM, a domestic market and strong NGO farmer support.
Infant EOA Country	3	Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe	Algeria, Liberia; Namibia, Zambia	Characterized by a developing domestic and export market, some civil society activity, some guidelines and exports, but little government support.

⁷ <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/africa-fertilizer-financing-mechanism/about-affm/abuja-declaration>

⁸ https://eoai-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Sustainable-African-Systems-Analysis-Spread-View_Compressed-.pdf

⁹ Auerbach, R., et al. "Assessment for the African Union Commission of North, West, Central and Southern Africa, with a View to Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture». African Union." (2020).

Nascent EOA Awareness	4		Cape Verde; DR Congo; Gambia; Guinea Republic; Ivory Coast; Malawi; Mauritania; Mozambique; Niger; Sierra Leone	They have some NGO capacity, no guidelines, little or no support from the government but could have some commercial activity in EOA and could be exporting.
Awaiting Inspiration	5	Burundi	Angola; Botswana; Central African Republic; Chad; Comoros; Congo Republic; Djibouti; Equatorial Guinea; Eritrea; Eswatini; Gabon; Guinea Bissau; Lesotho; Libya; Somalia; South Sudan; Western Sahara	The countries have very little institutional capacity, no government support and are not exporting much.

Source: EOA Assessment for AU 2021

3.1.2 Continental Interventions to facilitate adoption of agroecology.

1.The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I): Mainstreaming EOA into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa

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 policymaking, to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty, and guarantee food security. Phase I was implemented in Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda from 2014 to April 2019. It was co-financed by the SDC and SSNC, and the European Union through the AU, and implemented by Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) collaborating with other Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) selected by National Platforms under the coordination and management of the executing agencies, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) for the SDC support and Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya for the SSNC support.

In Phase I, significant progress was made in mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into national policies¹⁰. Countries like Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, and Ethiopia, developed EOA policy drafts which are at various stages of approval. EOA curricula were introduced in universities, including Mekelle University in Ethiopia, Uganda Martyrs University, Sokoine University in Tanzania, and Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal. A database for EOA research and success stories has been established and made accessible through the EOA-I

¹⁰ https://eoai-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Annex-A-english190321_ProDoc-EOA-I-SDC-PHASE-II-2019-2023.pdf

website¹¹. From 2013 to 2017, there was a noticeable improvement in integrating sustainable land management practices into agricultural programs and an increase in the application of EOA practices. Six of the eight participating countries - Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda implemented organic certification standards. Governance structures for the EOA-I were established in the form of National Steering Committees (NSC) and National Platforms.

The initiative successfully engaged over 21,000 farmers with access to markets, trained 100,000 individuals on ecological practices, linked 1,700 people to trade fairs, and reached 500 policymakers as well as 2,100 students involved in EOA curricula. There was a substantial improvement in knowledge and positive attitudes toward EOA in eight implementing countries. Additionally, production levels increased by 83%, and unit productivity by 37%, with 58% of organic producers reporting income increase of more than 10%, and 73% reporting improved quality of life¹².

Phase II running from 2019 to 2023, which included Rwanda bringing the total number of participating nations to nine, showed strong performance across all the priority (pillars) areas¹³. Partners reported encouraging performance on the Research and Applied Knowledge (R&AK) achieving 86% of its targets. Under this pillar(I) EOA partners focused on developing and disseminating EOA technologies and practices, with partners in five out of nine countries achieving 100% of their targets. Key achievements included the development of 81 EOA technologies and practices, such as soil nutrient improvement, pest control, and post-harvest management. Under Pillar 2: Information, Communication and Extension (IC&E), partners achieved 66% of their project targets in terms of information and knowledge dissemination and building capacity of farmers for adoption of EOA practices. While no country partners hit 100% of their targets, Mali partners led with 96% target achievement. Key activities undertaken included training and capacity building, with a significant focus on curriculum development and implementation.

Under Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD), country partners achieved 70% of their targets. The outputs of activity implementation aimed to increase the share of organic products in the market. Mali participants led with 95% target achievement. The main activities implemented towards achieving these results included the creation of new markets, value addition to products and linking farmers to local and international markets. The three technical pillars were coordinated by Pillar 4: Supporting and cementing that had targets in terms of steering, coordination, and management with 63% level of target achievement. A primary outcome under the coordination and management of the overall project focused on policy development and advocacy. Nigeria and Mali led with 97% and 96% target achievement, respectively. Key activities included the development of policy documents and the establishment of national platforms to provide forums for experience sharing, policy issue articulation and advocacy and calling for more support towards EOA initiatives¹⁴.

¹¹ <https://eoai-africa.org/success-stories/>

¹² <https://eoai-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Final-Evaluation-Report-EOA-Phase-1-copy.pdf>

¹³ https://eoai-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Final-Report_-Baseline-Study-of-the-Ecological-Organic-Agriculture-Initiative-in-Africa.pdf

¹⁴ EOA-I 2022 Annual Technical Report

2. The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA)

One of the major effects of the EOA Initiative has been influencing development of complementing initiatives. KCOA programme in Africa arose out of EOA to focus on knowledge harnessing and enhancing access by farmers. It is a collaborative country-led partnership that aims to scale up the adoption of organic and agroecological farming practices through a network of five Knowledge Hubs in Africa. A digital knowledge platform has been established¹⁵. KCOA is dedicated to empowering African farmers and stakeholders by providing practical, accessible resources to support the shift toward sustainable farming practices. Through a network of five regional knowledge hubs, KCOA makes it easier for multipliers to access valuable information on organic and agroecological methods, build technical skills, and connect with a supportive community of professionals. KCOA mission is to bridge the gap between need and knowledge, helping multipliers to strengthen their skills, expand their networks, and become more effective advocates for sustainable agriculture across the continent. Focusing on enhancing knowledge, capacity, networking, and advocacy to promote organic and agroecological farming practices, the KCOA project has four main objectives: i) to improve access to knowledge on organic agriculture and agroecology; ii) to strengthen the technical and professional capacity of multipliers; iii) to foster networking and to strengthen relationships in the sector; and iv) to strengthen actors in their policy and advocacy work. The project includes projects in North, West, Central, East, and Southern Africa.

On behalf of the funding agency, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ steers the project from Germany while country non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implement it in the regions. In cooperation with German and international organizations, GIZ supports the country partners in preparing technical and methodological knowledge on organic production, processing, and marketing. The table 4 below shows the implementing partners and the coordinating agencies for KCOA in the 5 regions¹⁶. Details of regional hubs are discussed under respective regions.

Table 4: Regional Information Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology

Region	Project Countries	Coordinating Agency
West Africa	Senegal (Hub base), Mali, Benin, Nigeria and Gambia	FENAB, Agricole Afrique, ENDA ProNat
Eastern Africa	Kenya (hub base), Uganda (co-host), Tanzania, Rwanda, and Madagascar	Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)
Southern Africa	Zambia (Hub base), Malawi, Namibia and South Africa	Sustainability Institute (SI) Zambia, PELUM Zambia
North Africa	Egypt (Hub base), Tunisia and Morocco	SEKEM
Central Africa	Cameroon	Le Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création (CIPCRE)

¹⁵ <https://kcoa-africa.org/>

¹⁶ https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/2020_08_BMZ_Factsheet_allgemein_EN.pdf & <https://kcoa-africa.org/>

3.2 Regional Overview of EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

3.2.1 Central Africa

1. Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Central Africa (KHCA)

KHCA is an initiative under the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA). KHCA aims to promote the adoption of organic and agroecological farming practices across Central Africa, with a particular focus on Cameroon. The hub addresses the multifaceted challenges faced by organic agriculture and agroecology in the region, such as limited access to resources, technical knowledge, and supportive policies. KHCA's approach includes identifying the needs of various stakeholders in the organic farming value chain, collecting, and documenting traditional and innovative knowledge, and disseminating this knowledge through various channels like training courses and media. KHCA also supports the development of markets for organic products by setting up Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and organizing green fairs and markets. The hub's activities are implemented by GIZ in cooperation with Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création (CIPCRC), Centre Polyvalent de Formation de Mbouo (CPF), Groupement d'Appui pour le Développement Durable (GADD), Service d'Appui aux Initiatives Locales de Développement (SAILD) and Formation Institut Africain pour le Développement Economique et Social (INADES)

Since its launch in 2022, KHCA has achieved remarkable milestones. The hub has trained over 900,000 farmers in organic and agroecological practices, significantly enhancing their technical skills and knowledge, 830 multipliers (Innovators, Extension Agents, Marketers, Rural Service Providers, Model farmers, Trainers, Organisations and entrepreneurs, and NGOs in service of communities) have been recruited and trained as members of the hub including 380 women who share their knowledge on organic farming and agroecology, and 160 knowledge products have been developed. The hub has also established 20 Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) to ensure the credibility and marketability of organic products. Additionally, KHCA has organized 15 green fairs and markets, providing platforms for farmers to showcase and sell their organic produce. Through these efforts, KHCA has worked with over 90 organizations in the region who are involved in training and dissemination activities in the hub fostering a robust network that supports sustainable agriculture in Central Africa¹⁷.

3.2.1.1 Cameroon

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Cameroon is categorized as an EOA type 3 Country with a developing domestic and export market, some NGO activity, some guidelines and exports, but little government support. Incorporating EOA into national legal systems has been a gradual process. The country is working toward better alignment with EOA principles. Some policy frameworks with EOA principles include:

¹⁷ Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Central Africa (KHCA)

National Agricultural Investment Plan (SDSR/PNIA) for 2020-2030

- Plays an integral part in the country's commitment to the Malabo Declaration. Possibilities for promotion of sustainability are seen as significant potential to develop agroecology. The plan makes reference to environment preservation and climate change adaptation constraints. Investment areas include strengthening production system resilience, sustainable natural resource management and food and nutritional security of vulnerable populations against climate change and other shocks. It incorporates climate change adaptation into national sectoral strategies and policies, providing for agroecological considerations, optimizing food production without endangering the nature.

Cameroon's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), 2021

- The updated NDC reflects Cameroon's vision for adaptation, including the goal to turn climate-related challenges into development solutions in five agro-ecological zones of the country-providing for a radical transition towards a more ecological and sustainable development, including among others climate-smart agriculture to build resilience and enhance investments in adaptation and strengthen the resilience of communities against the harmful effects of climate change.

Interventions to facilitate adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Strengthening Food Security through the Promotion of Agroecology in Cameroon

Aimed to contribute to the promotion of agroecological practices and policies to improve food security in Cameroon and other Francophone countries.

- **Technical intervention:** Support farmers' organizations implementing agroecological practices including sustainable land management and the use of natural inputs.
- **Awareness intervention:** Mobilizing and strengthening members of agroecological movements in communication aspects.
- **Policy intervention:** Conduct advocacy in favour of agroecology with policymakers and structuring movements promoting agroecology in Cameroon¹⁸.

Implementation period: June 2023 – November 2024

Funders:

Lead actors : Service D'appui Aux Initiatives Locales De Développement (SAILD)

Partners : Réseau des Acteurs du Développement Durable (RADD); Conseil Régional des Organisations Paysannes de la Partie Septentrionale du Cameroun (CROPSEC)

Achievement: The emergence of agroecology public policies and large-scale dissemination of agro-ecological practices and their adoption by farmers.

2. Green Innovation Centers for the Agricultural and Food Sector (ProCISA)

ProCISA aims to improve the incomes of smallholder farmers as well as employment and the regional supply of foodstuff through agricultural and agri-food innovations implemented by the project. Targeted value chains are cocoa, potato, and traditional (backyard) poultry in the Adamawa, Central, West, North-West, and South-West regions of Cameroon.

Implementation period: 2014 – 2024

Funders: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (~ 18.4 billion FCFA)

Lead actor: German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

Partners: MINADER, MINEPIA, PADCAO, SODECAO, ONCC, CICC, GEPA, IITA, IRAD, CIP, Europlant, GRIMME, CAPHAVET, InVeLCo

Achievements: Advancing agricultural practices, empowering farmers, and contributing to food security in Cameroon.

¹⁸ <https://agroecologyfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/AgroecologyFundGrants2022.pdf>

- **Technical intervention:** Facilitate knowledge transfer between innovators and users, emphasis is placed on the improvement of didactic materials, the development of demonstration plots and disseminating innovations through green agricultural schools¹⁹.

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EOA Assessment for AU 2021; <https://eoai-africa.org/>

Green Innovation Centers for the Agricultural and Food Sector (ProCISA), 2020; <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/32209.html>

<https://climatepromise.undp.org/>

3.2.2 Eastern Africa

The Eastern African countries are at varying stages in their EOA policy formulation processes. Until the EOA Assessment by the AU in 2021, none had finalized national organic agriculture policies. However, Uganda approved an Organic Policy in July 2019, to enhance research, production, processing, and marketing of organic agricultural products.

Table 5: Agriculture and AE Regulatory Framework for EAC

Regulation	Detail
Agricultural and Rural Development Policy (ARDP) (2005-2030)	Aims to ensure sustainable agricultural development and foster economic growth in the region. One objective of the ARDP policy is to “promote sustainable use and management of natural resources (soil, water, fisheries and forest) to conserve the environment.
The East African Community (EAC) Vision 2050	The vision prioritizes Green Growth/Green Economy for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development but does not specifically highlight organic agriculture as a strategy for green growth in the region. It mentions livestock keeping and how fuel and manure production support organic farming and increase crop yield and soil conservation.
East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS) named EAS 456:2007	The standards were developed in the early 2000s and officially launched in 2007. They serve as the official standard for organic agriculture production within the EAC partner states, aiming to ensure consistency and compliance in organic farming practices, certification procedures, and labelling of organic products across Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The guidelines promote organic agriculture with the goals of

¹⁹ <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2023-en-Cameroon-Factsheet-2020.pdf>

	safeguarding consumer health, protecting the environment, and facilitating fair trade practices in the organic sector (EAC, 2007).
Regional Bioeconomy Strategy	The strategy recognizes the potential of bioeconomy to drive sustainable development, economic growth, and environmental conservation. By harnessing the power of bio-based resources and technologies, the strategy aims to create new opportunities for agricultural diversification, value addition, and job creation in the region (EAC Secretariat, 2022).

Interventions to facilitate adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level

1. Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa (KHEA)

KHEA is part of a larger Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA). It was initiated in 2019 and is implemented by GIZ in cooperation with BvAT (hub main host), PELUM Uganda (co-host) and partner organizations in Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Madagascar. KHEA's overall goal is to ensure that ecological organic agriculture and agroecology are integrated into the various countries' agricultural systems. Training courses for this are aimed at disseminating knowledge, strategies, and good practices to small and large-scale farmers in the field of organic agriculture across the region. The results of equipping farmers with the necessary knowledge increases capability to enhance environmental protection and food quality.

Since its inception in 2019, the KHEA in Eastern Africa has made significant strides in promoting sustainable farming practices across the region. The hub has trained over 1,760 farmers, including 654 men and 1,106 women, on the principles and practical skills of organic agriculture²⁰. These trainings have empowered farmers to adopt practices such as crop rotation, compost manure, and organic pest control, leading to improved yields and economic benefits. KHEA has also strengthened local markets by promoting affordable certification processes using the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and Internal Control Systems (ICS), which help ensure the credibility of organic products.

2. The Institutional Innovation for EOA in Africa – IIABA Project

Launched in 2020 and running through 2023, the IIABA project was funded by the French Development Agency (AFD) with a budget of 1.5 million euros, coordinated by the African Organic Network (AfrONet), and implemented in Tanzania, Uganda, and Morocco. The main objective of the project was to catalyze a change in the scale of organic agriculture in Uganda, Morocco, and Tanzania and in doing so, to facilitate its development more generally in Africa. The IIABA project was implemented by different partners in contributing to achieving the project goals. The partners included the National Organic Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU), Network of Agro-ecological Initiatives in Morocco/Réseau des initiatives agro-écologiques au Maroc (RIAM), Moroccan Interprofessional Federation of the Organic Sector (FIMABIO), and Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM). INRAE and CIRAD were the French research institutes that provided technical support to implementing partners on the innovations developed through research and its dissemination; they played the technical advisory role to project partners. A study conducted through the project on organic products revealed that consumer awareness about organic products is crucial in their purchase decisions. High-income

²⁰ Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa (KHEA)

groups are more willing to pay a premium for organic products, while many consumers are still unaware of their availability²¹.

3.2.2.1 Ethiopia

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Ethiopia is classified as a type 3 country in the EOA typology. This reflects a moderate level of development in EOA, characterized by a developing domestic and export markets for organic products, some NGO activity, and guidelines related to EOA but limited government support. The Ministry of Agriculture has supported the implementation of several elements of EOA, including the promotion of organic fertilizer reflected in its Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Strategy. Ethiopia has also held the 1st National Conference on Organic Agriculture in 2018 chaired by the State Department of Agriculture and a steering committee was established to develop ToRs for a technical committee to design a national strategy. The existing policy frameworks and strategies that contain EOA elements are discussed below.

²¹ <https://afronet.africa/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/The-IIABA-SUMMARY>

The Organic Agriculture (OA) System (Proclamation No 488/2006)

- Signed into law in 2006, it defines organic products and allows Ethiopia to access new markets for organically produced agricultural products for human consumption or animal feed. The legislation promotes sustainable and environmentally friendly agricultural practices in Ethiopia.

Road map for the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) policy, 2018

- The policy was developed to guide the implementation of EOA practices across the country. Drawing from lessons and experiences of various implementing partners, it outlines clear steps and priorities for advancing sustainable and organic agriculture.

Ethiopian Agricultural Sector Policy and Investment Framework (PIF) 2010-2020

- The framework aimed to reduce degradation and improve productivity of natural resources through increasing areas under irrigation; improving water conservation and water use efficiency; reducing arable, rangeland and forest degradation; maintaining agricultural biodiversity; improving soil health in key agricultural landscapes; improving security of private sector access to land resources; and strengthening farmers' ability to respond to climate change challenges. These are inline with essential elements of agroecology.

Ethiopia's National Green Development program

- The program aligns with the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative Pledge. It provides a platform on which restoration interventions can be fine-tuned according to local needs and priorities, especially regarding the use of indigenous species more adapted to local biophysical and social conditions. It Promote private and community tree planting and agroforestry initiatives to support conservation through use, sustainable management of natural resources.

National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) (2021-2030)

- The overall objective of NAIP (2021-2030) is to align MoA sector plans with the CAADP framework. Strategic objective 3 of the plan targets conservation and utilization of Ethiopia's natural resources in a sustainable and productive way, adaptation to and mitigation of adverse effect of climate change for sustainable agriculture. This fosters an enabling environment to integrate elements of EOA.

Interventions to facilitate adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Strengthening Sustainable Farming and Local Food Systems Through Promotion of Agroecological Farming Practices

This initiative aimed at promoting agroecological farming practices through raising awareness and enhancing the capacity of smallholder farmer families.

- **Technical component:** Restoring displaced local seed varieties and facilitating access by farmers and supporting women self-help groups (SHGs) and Cluster Level Associations (CLAs) in the production and marketing of agroecology healthy foods.

Implementation time: June 2022 – September 2023

Funding: Agroecology fund (\$50,000)

Lead actor: Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action - MELCA

Partners: Endelebe Local Seed Conservators and Producers Farmers' Association

Achievement: Strengthened food systems, enhanced biodiversity, and equipped communities with skills for implementing sustainable farming techniques.

- **Awareness component:** Promoting knowledge sharing and learning through Farmers' Field School.²²

2. Developing and Protecting Mountainous Watersheds to Improve the Resilience of Farming Families

The project uses a system-wide approach to reduce the pressure on natural resources through conservation of soil and water resources to ensure food security. It aims to conserve soil and water resources in selected areas using integrated agroforestry.

- **Technical intervention:**

- Preserving land, soil fertility, biodiversity, and more generally, the environment, to maintain the productive capacities of family farms.
- Access to forage species through a massive dissemination of planting materials.
- Effective soil & water conservation through the establishment of vegetated anti-erosion structures.
- Soil fertility improvement, diversification of fodder resources (grasses and legumes) and agroforestry practices.

Implementation time: July 2020 – June 2024

Funding: AFD (5 000 000 Euros)

Lead actor: Aide France

Partners: Community-based organizations, local government authorities from the Ministry of Agriculture, and the CGIAR

Achievement: Improve the resilience of rural farming families and preserve natural resources in the mountainous territories of Southern Ethiopia

Challenges: Low adoption in part due to limited engagement with local institutions and end-users

3. Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Communities by Up-scaling Best Practices and Adopting an Integrated Approach

The project aims at empowering communities to plan and implement adaptation interventions deliberately and proactively, reducing reliance on the Government of Ethiopia to provide already scarce resources for climate change adaptation.

Building community self-reliance will enable project participants to tailor adaptation tools and technologies to specific needs. The strategies include climate-smart conservation agriculture, integrated and diversified farming systems, improved management of rangelands and other ecosystems, and urban diversification of livelihood options.

- **Technical intervention:** Promoting at the local level, the use of new technologies – or traditional technologies in new ways to ensure that productivity and sustainability of livelihoods are maintained under a range of future climate change scenarios.
- **Advocacy intervention:** Strengthening institutional and technical capacity for coordination of climate-resilient planning and investment.

Implementation time: 2023 - 2028

Funding: Global Environment Facility-Least Developed Country Fund (GEF-LDCF) – (US\$8.8 million)

Lead actor: Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Partners: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Achievement: Building natural resilience and innovativeness of communities to build their self-reliance and capacity to continue the adaptive process iteratively

²² <https://afsafrika.org/empowering-african-communities-with-agroecology-for-healthy-soils-and-resilient-food-systems/>

- **Awareness intervention:** developing a knowledge management system to store and disseminate the best adaptive practices for further upscaling and replication established²³.

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3.2.2.2 Kenya

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Kenya has been evaluated and classified as EOA type 2 (Emerging EOA sector). The country does not have official policies for EOA even though recognition of organic agriculture and public interest are rising. Some government support exists, with policy development underway, a strong NOAM (Kenya Organic Agriculture Network), a domestic market, and strong NGO farmer support.

The Ministry of Agriculture has an organic desk to lead the development of an organic policy under the Department of Food Security and Early Warning Systems. In the meantime, organic agriculture has been incorporated in the Food Security Policy and Soil Fertility Policy drafts. The East African Organic Product Standard is available for the whole EAC and needs to be adopted and domesticated by all the partner states as they develop their national EOA policies.

²³ <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/enhancing-adaptive-capacity-communities-scaling-best-practices-and-adopting-integrated>

Kenya Organic Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan of the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) for 2017 to 2023

- This strategy guides the implementation of EOA in Kenya currently.

Organic Agriculture Policy of 2009

- The draft of the organic agriculture policy developed by agricultural experts from the ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) is complete and ready to be deliberated upon by the cabinet. The referenced document remains a draft.

National agroecology strategy for food system transformation 2024 – 2033

- It promotes agroecological practices like regenerative agriculture and organic farming to enhance food security, improve climate resilience, and support biodiversity. The strategy also emphasizes inclusivity, aiming to empower local communities, women, and marginalized groups while aligning with global sustainable development goals.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

Some of the interventions that have been undertaken in the country to promote EOA are:

1. Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Program (KCSAP)

Implemented from 2017 to 2022, the project aimed to enhance agricultural productivity and resilience against climate change in Kenya's smallholder communities. It was spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives and predominantly funded by the World Bank. The initiative not only contributed to sustainable agricultural productivity but also strengthened the ecosystem's resilience to climate adversities.

AE Practice: Agro forestry as well as Sustainable, Regenerative and Organic agriculture.
Beneficiaries: SHFs, Pastoralist communities
Spatial Coverage: National
Value Chain: Maize, sorghum, and millet
Funding Details: USD 279.7M

2. The Kenya Cereal Enhancement Program Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Window

Implemented from 2015 – 2024, the initiative aimed to improve natural resource management capacity and enhance resilience to climate change in an increasingly fragile ecosystem. The project is financed by IFAD, with co-financing from the European Union, and the government of Kenya. Other partners are Equity Bank, KALRO, and the Co-operative Bank of Kenya.

AE Practice: Sustainable Agriculture
Beneficiaries: Smallholder farmers, Youth
Spatial Coverage: Counties (Embu, Kitui, Tharaka Nithi, Machakos, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Kwale, and Kilifi)
Value Chain: Not specified.
Funding Details: US D 123.1M

3. Mount Kenya Sustainable Landscape and Livelihoods Program

This program, running from 2020 to 2026, focuses on promoting regenerative and climate-smart agricultural practices.

- Technical support:** training and support on the establishment of environmentally friendly business enterprises and adoption of a gender-inclusive approach to coffee and tea farming. The implementing partners for this project, include The Kenya Tea Development Agency, Nature Kenya, Coffee Management Services, and Kenya Scouts Association.

AE Practice: Regenerative Agriculture
Beneficiaries: 33,400 men, 16,101 women, and 5,000 youth.
Spatial Coverage: Kirinyaga and Embu Counties
Value Chain: Coffee and tea
 Funding partner: IKEA Foundation farming.
Funding Details: Not documented.

4. Agroecological Intensification in Western Kenya

The project, implemented from 2020 – 2023 focused on enhancing sustainable farming practices to improve food security, soil health, and livelihoods in western region. Key initiatives include integrating legumes into smallholder farming systems to boost soil fertility, combating pests like Striga, and providing food and income opportunities.

Technical support: Conducting research, capacity building, and scaling of activities to facilitate the sustainable integration of legumes into diverse farming systems in western Kenya. The project is implemented in collaboration with the University of Nairobi (UoN), Sustainable Income Generating Investment (SINGI), Tembea Youth Centre for Sustainable Development (TEMBEA), and RURAL FARMERS Community Based Organization (CBO). The project is financially supported by the Global Collaboration for Resilient Food Systems (CRFS), a program by McKnight Foundation.

AE Practice: Sustainable Agriculture
Beneficiaries: Farmers, community-based organizations (CBOs), and university faculty.
Spatial Coverage: Nandi, Busia, Siaya, Homa Bay, and Migori counties
Value Chain: Integration of legumes into diverse farming systems.
Funding Details: Not documented.

To promote awareness on EOA, the government has dedicated a desk at the Ministry of Agriculture to address all matters related to organic agriculture in Kenya. The Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) which has been spearheading training of extension officers, supporting quality management, and consumer awareness as well as farmer training workshops has a liaison with the organic desk. To harmonize trade across the EAC, the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS) was launched after a consultative process pending adoption at country level.

Some of the challenges that have contributed to the slow adoption of EOA in Kenya are high marketing costs (transport, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers), slow growth of investment in the sector- storage, transportation, and processing have increased the cost of doing business. Secondly, the lack of relevant, reliable, and up-to-date agricultural statistics is a major constraint both for the development of strategies and policies in the sector and for monitoring and evaluation.

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3.2.2.3 Rwanda

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Rwanda is categorized as a type 3 (Infant EOA Sector) Country. Rwanda's approach to Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) encompasses relevant policies that support some aspects of EOA such as ecological and biodiversity protection. Organic certification in Rwanda is done at different levels - third party certifications are done by accredited certifying bodies (Ecocert, Control Union and Ceres) for products for export. Regarding the certification using the East African Organic Products Standards (EAOPS), Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) leads the process in collaboration with Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) as well as promoting the organic sector in Rwanda. Rwanda's certified organic products include coffee, tea, dried pineapple, macadamia nuts, essential oils, and organic pesticides derived from pyrethrum. These products comply with international standards such as the European Union (EU) standards, the National Organic Program (NOP) standards of the United States, and the Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS). These certifications bolster credibility and ensure access to both local and international markets. Different elements of support to EOA are delivered through a range of sectoral policies under the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and other institutions involved in the organic promotion. A specific national organic agriculture policy document is yet to be developed. The relevant policies identified that support some aspects of EOA include: -

National Agriculture Policy (NAP), 2018

- The policy acknowledges the significance of agroecology by promoting practices that foster crop diversity, enhance nutrition, and support sustainable management of natural resources. This policy advocates for specific measures such as the use of livestock manure and Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) practices, alongside the gradual liberalization of fertilizer supply, to improve soil fertility.

The Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA) IV (2018- 2024)

- The Plan builds on the achievements of PSTA III (2013-2018), aiming to transform Rwanda's agriculture from subsistence to a market-oriented, value-creating sector that boosts the national economy and ensures food and nutrition security. The plan has made efforts to enhance environmentally and ecologically friendly farming practices, thus indirectly supporting ecological organic agriculture.

National Environment and Climate Change Policy, 2018

- Aims to create a resilient, high-quality environment through green economic transformation, enhancing natural ecosystems, managing biosafety, strengthening meteorological services, promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, improving environmental well-being, bolstering climate governance, and encouraging green investments. While the policy doesn't explicitly promote organic agriculture, it highlights the major contributors to soil degradation and pollution like inadequate soil conservation, chemical fertilizers, and over-cultivation and advocates for environmentally friendly farming practices aligned with ecological organic agriculture.

Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy, 2011

- Recognizes the threat posed by rapid population growth, climate change, and urbanization on Rwanda's natural resources and food production and therefore, aims to mainstream climate change across all sectors, and position Rwanda to access international climate funding to combat climate change.

Horticulture Strategy for Rwanda, 2006

- Asserts that the development of organic horticulture segment in Rwanda requires mapping of certain areas as strictly organic production zones, taking precaution to avoid chemicals from other areas affecting them, thus supporting ecological organic agriculture.

The Master Plan for Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Rwanda 2011-2020

- Aims to provide Rwanda consumers with domestically produced, high quality, safe, competitively priced, and nutritious aquaculture products, produced in an eco-friendly manner thus revealing its indirect support for ecological organic farming in the aquaculture industry.

Organic Certification

- In 2005, the Rwandan government's increasing interest in organic agriculture led it to join as an observer the first meeting of the Regional Standard Technical Working Group (RSTWG) for the development of a voluntary regional East African organic standard. Later, Rwanda ratified the first regional voluntary organic standard in Africa.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Food Security Project (SAIP)

The project aimed to increase agricultural productivity, market access, and food security of the targeted beneficiaries in the project areas²⁴.

²⁴ <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P164520>

The SAIP investments associated with environmental and social concerns include small-scale irrigation and water use efficiency, agricultural productivity enhancement, and market and processing infrastructure.

- **Technical intervention:** It emphasizes ecological practices that promote long-term soil health, biodiversity, and environmental resilience by encouraging practices such as

Implementation period: 2019 - 2024
Funding: World Bank (US\$ 32.97 million)
Lead actor: Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Board (RAB)
Partners: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Land and Forestry, RLMUA, RWFA, Districts and farmers organizations.
Achievement: Long-term soil health, biodiversity, and environmental resilience.

crop rotation, agroforestry, and natural pest management²⁵.

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3.2.2.4 Tanzania

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Tanzania has been categorized as an EOA type 3 country with a developing domestic and export market, some NGO activity, and some guidelines but little government support. The sector in Tanzania is still relatively underdeveloped with about only 0.14% ha of land under certified organic cultivation and civil society organizations that have launched several sustainable farming initiatives based on EOA practices and principles. Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) has been the main organic promoting organization in training,

²⁵ <https://www.gafspfund.org/projects/sustainable-agricultural-intensification-improved-livelihoods-food-security-and-nutrition>

certification, and market access for organic products²⁶. Some of the policies integrating EOA principles include: -

Organic Agriculture Act 2011

- The act provides guidelines on promotion, certification, and regulation of organic agriculture and organic products in Tanzania.

National Ecologic Agriculture Strategy NEOAS for 2023-2030

- The strategy acknowledges and values the existence of traditional varieties and breeds and lays emphasis on seed exchange systems and promotes climate adaptation strategies such as agroforestry and agroecological research and development.

National Environmental Policy 2021

- Although the policy is not explicit on agroecology, it promotes management of land and environmental resources for social-economic development. This include management of water sources; conservation of wildlife habitats and biodiversity; conservation of forest ecosystems for sustainable provision of environmental goods and services, and promotes gender consideration in environmental management.

National Livestock Policy 2006

- The policy advocates for organic livestock farming and promotion of organic livestock products, advocates for collection and use of traditional knowledge and skills.

National Water Policy 2002

- The policy supports sustainable agricultural practices by ensuring that farmers have access to reliable water sources. Agroecology in Tanzania focuses on environmentally-friendly farming methods that conserve water, improve soil health, and enhance biodiversity. The policy's emphasis on community participation and local management aligns well with agroecological principles, which prioritize local knowledge and practices

National Forest Policy 1998

- Policy advocates for sustainable supply of forest products and services through effective forest management ecosystem and biodiversity protection, water catchment areas protection, and soil fertility improvement.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Empowerment of Organic Small-Scale Farmer Families through Resilient Democratic Rural Institutions, Market Access, and Advocacy (ESFROMA)

The program was implemented by TOAM and "UMOJA WA WAKULIMA WA MATUNDA NA MBOGA WILAYA YA MAGHARIBI" (UWAMWIMA). TOAM undertook project activities in 10 villages of Chamwino District in Dodoma region whereas UWAMWIMA executed activities in 10 districts (4 in Pemba and 6 in Unguja)-Zanzibar. The program used the Farmer Family Learning Group (FFLG) extension approach toward promoting organic agriculture. The Programme's overall goal was to decrease food insecurity and poverty through organic

²⁶ A Report on the analysis of Policies, Plans and Institutional Settings for Agroecology Transformation in Tanzania: [Analysis-of-Policies-Plans-and-Instituional-Settings-for-Agroecology-Transformation-in-Tanzania-1.pdf \(ansaf.or.tz\)](https://ansaf.or.tz/Analysis-of-Policies-Plans-and-Instituional-Settings-for-Agroecology-Transformation-in-Tanzania-1.pdf)

farming and empowerment of small-scale farmers, including women and youth in Tanzania. The strategic approach of the Program was founded on the development triangle and rests on three priorities in its recognition of the synergy between strategic delivery, organizational capacity, and advocacy. Between January 2020 and December 2023, ESFROMA I realized remarkable impacts through increased adoption of improved sunflower seeds in the project areas, increased access to financial services by PGS through VICOBA schemes and certification of 22 PGS under the East African Organic Mark.

ESFROMA II is a four-year program that started in 2024 to phase out in 2027. It is implemented by TOAM in Chamwino District Dodoma and Umoja wa Wakulima wa Mboga na Matunda Zanzibar in Unguja and Pemba Island (Zanzibar). The Programme overall goal is to decrease food insecurity and poverty through organic farming and empowerment of small-scale farmers, including women and youth.

2. Agroecology Hub in Tanzania (AEHT)

The project is supported by McKnight Foundation and has a focus on undertaking research that is used to enhance livelihoods and sustainable environment in rural communities through principles of Agro-Ecological Intensification (AEI). The hub seeks to provide a platform for various categories of stakeholders to participate in the promotion of AEI principles in Tanzania²⁷.

- **Technical intervention:** Conducting agroecological research and development that informs initiatives that enhance livelihoods and sustainable environments in rural communities through Agro-Ecological Intensification (AEI).
- **Advocacy intervention:** It involves a multi-disciplinary approach that provides a platform for various stakeholders, including universities, NGOs, farmers, research institutions and local government authorities, to promote agroecological principles. The AEHT engages with local government authorities and policymakers to advocate for agroecology-friendly policies.
- **Awareness intervention:** Through demonstration sites, farmer field schools, community dialogues, and participatory research, the AEHT actively involves farmers in co-designing and implementing agroecological practices.

Implementation Period: 2021-Ongoing
Funders: McKnight Foundation
Lead partners: Department of Agricultural Extension and Community Development
Partners: Sokoine College of Agriculture, NGOs, Farmers, Research Institutions, Farmer Organizations, Local Government Authorities (LGAs), Policy makers.
Achievements: Conducted research on agroecological practices, soil health, crop diversification, and sustainable farming techniques informing decision making process.

3. Nutrition-Sensitive Agroecology Intervention in Rural Tanzania-Research Project

The research project focused on examining whether a nutrition-sensitive agroecology intervention in rural Tanzania could improve children’s dietary diversity, food insecurity, and child anthropometry. The research concluded that there is untapped potential for nutrition-

²⁷ [Agro-ecology hub in Tanzania | Sokoine University of Agriculture \(sua.ac.tz\)](http://sua.ac.tz)

sensitive agroecological approaches to achieve human health while promoting sustainable agricultural practices²⁸.

Implementation Period: 2021

Funders: McKnight Foundation, the Borlaug Fellowship in Global Food Security Research, and NIH K01 Award

Lead partners: Partners:

Achievements: Provided data on existing untapped potential for nutritional sensitive agroecological practices for improved health

References

A Report on the analysis of Policies, Plans and Institutional Settings for Agroecology Transformation in Tanzania: [Analysis-of-Policies-Plans-and-Institutional-Settings-for-Agroecology-Transformation-in-Tanzania-1.pdf \(ansaf.or.tz\)](#) [Agro-ecology hub in Tanzania | Sokoine University of Agriculture \(sua.ac.tz\)](#)
<https://www.fao.org/agroecology/database/detail/en/c/1416342/>

3.2.2.5 Uganda

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

The EOA policy landscape in Uganda is robust and multifaceted. Uganda has actively integrated EOA into its national development strategy and is recognized as a leader in the East African region for its commitment to organic agriculture. It is classified as a typology 1 EOA Country with a well-developed framework for EOA, marked by the adoption of the National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) and active involvement in regional and international organic standards. As a result, the country is increasingly recognized internationally as one of the leading and most competitive sources of organic agricultural products in Africa. Some of the EOA supportive policies include: -

²⁸ <https://www.fao.org/agroecology/database/detail/en/c/1416342/>

Ugandan National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP)

- The National Organic Agriculture Policy (NOAP) was officially adopted in 2019 and launched in 2020. NOAP aims to strengthen organic agriculture research, appropriate technology development, and utilization. It promotes the production, processing, and marketing of organic products and enhances appropriate post-harvest handling practices.

Certification

- CERES and UGOCERT are the local bodies that certify organic products in Uganda. Allows products to carry the “Kilimohai” logo, indicating organic standards compliance. Organic certification administered by Ugo Cert verifies that farms and entities comply with Uganda Organic Standards, allowing them to sell, label, and present products as organic. This certification provides consumers with assurance of the organic product’s integrity.

The National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)

- An umbrella organisation which unites producers, processors, exporters, NGOs and other institutions and organisations that are involved in the promotion and development of the organic sector. Uganda has over 50,000 farm households certified as organic; for most of these, cash crops (such as coffee, cotton, and tea) are the major sources of income. In this regard, commercial organic agriculture can be seen as a major employer or employment opportunity. In 2014 Uganda was ranked first in the world for the number of organically certified farmers.

The National Development Plan (NDP II)

- Identifies organic agriculture as one of the farming systems for developing an economically and environmentally sound ecosystem to improve the living standards of farming communities while sustaining vital ecosystem services for the millions of Ugandan people now, and for the future.

The Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan (ASSP 2015/16 – 2019/20)

- Organic Agriculture is one of the key priorities that have been identified in the Plan to produce safe and healthy food for local consumers as well as for export to other market.

The rural development strategy

- Emphasize the role of Organic Agriculture in unlocking alternative livelihood opportunities, promote more sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, and protect the environment with a view to increasing agricultural production, resilience, and poverty reduction among the Ugandan people.

National Agroecology Strategy, 2023/24–2028/29

- The National Agroecology Strategy will provide a framework and guide for actions to improve the production and marketing of food and non-food products based on agroecological principles and practices. This will be achieved specifically through building sustainable production and marketing structures for safe, affordable and stable agroecological food systems, promoting sustainable resilient farming systems, and enhancing regulatory and institutional capacities of the different stakeholders.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Using a Human Rights Based Approach in Agriculture and Local Food Systems' Post COVID-19 Recovery Through Legal Empowerment and Social Accountability to Build Back Better and Greener with Agroecology.

The project aimed to scale agroecology up and out to enable small-scale farmers, particularly women and youth to take advantage of emerging market opportunities while empowering them on their rights to a clean and healthy environment.

Implementation time: April 2022 - March 2023

Funding: Agroecology fund (\$50,000)

Lead actor: Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights - CEFROHT

Partners: Center for Ecological Research and Development (CERD); Center for Economic Empowerment and Development (CECEEDE); Abagalana Women Farmers Association

- **Awareness interventions:**

Local governments in the districts of operation and urban councils are engaged to understand agroecology as a human right. Community radio was used to promote awareness of the critical need for agroecology production and consumption of healthy food.

2. Positioning Agroecology as a Pathway to Sustainable Food Systems in Uganda

Aims to build cooperation and collaboration with different stakeholders and mainstreaming of agroecology into policies.

Advocacy component:

- Community and national dialogues on policies to advance agroecology.
- Development of standard operating procedures for extension service providers focused on agroecological farming practices.

- **Awareness component:**

- Agroecology Clubs in secondary and primary schools and the Community Agroecology Schools support an online Agroecology School for journalists and communicators from different regions.
- Produce and distribute videos and podcasts on agroecology targeting the consumers and the public in Uganda.

Implementation time: April 2022 - March 2023

Funding: Agroecology fund (\$50,000)

Lead actor: Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers' Forum - ESAFF Uganda

Partners: PELUM Uganda, Uganda; Kamuli District Local Government; Mbale District Local Government

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Promoting Organic Agriculture in Uganda, Eastern and Southern Africa Small-scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda. <https://www.esaffuganda.org/publications>

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3.2.2.6 Burundi

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Burundi has been classified as a typology 5 as per the EOA assessment; characterized by lack of clear policies, limited institutional capacity, and poor support structures, which hinder the development and promotion of organic agriculture. However, Burundi has accepted the East African Organic Product Standard, and there are ongoing efforts to develop an Organic Policy for the country. Despite these efforts, institutional capacity is weak, and there is minimal government support for EOA initiatives, with little organization of organic farmers or practical support available. The integration of EOA into national policy has encountered several challenges and limited progress. Though there was an initiative to incorporate EOA into agricultural policy, it appears to have stalled. Currently, the country makes only general mentions of "sustainable agriculture" in policy documents as discussed below.

The Second Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy, 2012

- The strategy addressed agroecology primarily through its focus on sustainable agricultural practices and environmental management. The strategy encouraged the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that would not only boost productivity but also protect the environment. This included the use of organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and other agroecological techniques.

Burundi's National Agriculture Policy, 2008

- The policy emphasizes the importance of sustainable agricultural practices to ensure long-term food security and resilience against climate change. This includes promoting crop rotation, intercropping, and agroforestry, which help maintain soil fertility and reduce the need for chemical inputs

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Strengthening the resilience to the effects of climate change on small farms in northern Burundi

This project aims to change agricultural and animal production systems by promoting agroecological techniques and practices that are more resilient and adapted to climate change. Training and support are provided for this purpose, including post-harvest processes and practices to increase yields, diversify harvests, and

Implementation time: 2021 - 2025
Funding: SDC (via Interaction), Private Foundation (CHF 131,616)
Lead actor: FH Suisse

reduce losses during storage and processing. Small producers are organized into cooperatives and connected to local and cross-border markets²⁹.

- **Technical intervention:** Support from model farmers in the seed multiplication and certification process, applied research partnership with the University of Ngozi on agroecological practices in farming environments.
- **Awareness intervention:** Training of “model farmers” in agroecology, and establishment of a training center. Transfer of skills to “learning farmers” and train partner schools and churches in agroecology, creation, and distribution of educational materials.

2. The Soil Fertility Stewardship Project (PAGRIS).

PAGRIS supports farming households and target communities to actively participate in analysis and reflection on the issues of soil fertility, erosion, and sustainable land management. It helps determine the issues, their causes, and consequences, as well as identify the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities to help households and communities better understand their needs and find solutions to these problems and development of a plan for their plot of land (household level) and a plan for the watershed (community level), with an initial three-year timeline³⁰.

- **Technical intervention:** Supports communities to implement their plan to ensure full protection of their farms and watersheds. To this end, the project facilitates access to knowledge necessary for the implementation of the plans and to inputs that are not available locally.
- **Awareness intervention:** Promotes innovations through a research-action approach by supporting research farmers in the implementation of demonstration plots. These plots are an opportunity to integrate practices such as intercropping, crop rotation, mulching, composting, cover crops, water management, minimum tillage, biomass production, and recycling.

References

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3.2.3 Northern Africa

1. Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in North Africa (KHNA)

The KHNA a key initiative under the KCOA aims to scale up the adoption of organic and agroecological farming practices across North Africa, focusing on Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco. The hub addresses the challenges faced by the organic and agroecological sectors in these countries, such as limited access to knowledge, technical expertise, and supportive policies.

KHNA's approach is multifaceted, involving the collection, verification, validation, and dissemination of both traditional and scientific knowledge. This knowledge is shared with

²⁹ <https://fh-switzerland.ch/en/projects/burundi-faire-face-au-changement-climatique-67.html>

³⁰ <https://ifdc.org/2022/04/21/climate-change-a-vulnerability-for-burundian-small-and-large-scale-farmers/>

practitioners and multipliers along the organic and agroecological value chains. The hub also promotes connections between various stakeholders, including value chain operators, service providers, research institutions, government bodies, and civil society, to build strong and resilient networks that support the development of the sector.

One of KHNA's key strategies is the implementation of a cascade system of training, which enables multipliers to introduce organic and agroecological innovations in their communities. So far, KHNA has facilitated over 250 small projects, ranging from enabling the conversion to organic agriculture and addressing fertilization and plant protection challenges to opening and consolidating new markets. These projects are often conducted on demonstration plots, where innovative and effective experiments are used as learning methods. KHNA also supports innovative actions such as the Economy of Love (EoL) Carbon Credits initiative in Egypt, which aims to increase carbon sequestration through afforestation projects, compost production, soil carbon sequestration, and the implementation of renewable energy on licensed farms³¹. In Tunisia, KHNA has supported the cooperative "Lella Kmar Elbaya," which cultivates medicinal and aromatic plants and processes organic food³². The cooperative has created a recreation and gastronomic site for visitors, opened an organic shop, and expanded its product range to include herbs, fruits, vegetables, hard wheat, and distilled products. This initiative has helped preserve ancient varieties of cereals and other foods while promoting sustainable and locally developed mechanisms and technologies.

Overall, KHNA's efforts have significantly contributed to the promotion of sustainable agriculture and the improvement of livelihoods for smallholder farmers in North Africa. By fostering knowledge exchange, building strong networks, and supporting innovative projects, KHNA is helping to create a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector in the region.

3.2.3.1 Egypt

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Egypt is classified as a EOA type 2 country. The country has set up several policies that are aimed at supporting the establishment of EOA in the country as highlighted below:

³¹ <https://sekem.com/en/economy-of-love-project-enters-the-third-phase/>

³² <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2024-en-KHNA-factsheet.pdf>

The National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change and Reduction of Disaster Risks in Egypt (2011)

- This policy emphasizes and promotes efficient resource use and water conservation in agriculture and outlines measures to adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risks.

Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development Towards 2030

- Focuses on sustainable agricultural development and outlines strategies and goals for sustainable agriculture.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation in Egypt (July 2013)

- It mainstreams climate change adaptation in the water sector through focusing on reduction of water losses in agriculture and improving irrigation. This aims to enhance water resource sustainability while advancing agroecology practices.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level

1. Sustainable Transformation for Agricultural Resilience

The project focuses on sustainable and climate change-adapted agricultural intensification. It aims to promote the development of small rural businesses and implement inclusive policies and strategies that harness the untapped potential of women and youth for family resilience.

- **Technical support:** This project has been establishing efficient market linkages, fostering the growth of rural businesses. Advocating for effective policies: This intervention is promoting inclusive policies that recognize the contributions of women and youth.

AE Practice: Sustainable Agriculture
Beneficiaries: SHFs and poor and vulnerable women and youth in the rural areas of Upper Egypt.
Spatial Coverage: Upper Egypt, including the governorates of Menya, Asyut, and Sohag.
Value Chain: Agriculture
Funding Details: USD 269.64 million
 Funding partner: IFAD, WFP, Adaptation Fund, AfDB

2. Promoting Resilience in Desert Environments:

The project focuses on water for agriculture and watershed management targeting the entire population of the governorate.

- **Technical support:** The project focuses on improving agriculture efficiency by addressing some of the challenges such as limited access to water, land, and agricultural inputs. It also focuses on improving the quality and nutrition of agricultural products.

AE Practice: Conservation Agriculture
Beneficiaries: 36,000 households or 216,000 individuals
Spatial Coverage: coastal areas from Dabaa to El Salloum as well as in the Siwa Oasis and El Moghra in the Al Alamein District.
Value Chain: Agriculture
Funding Details: USD 81.6 million

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3.2.4 Southern Africa

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has implemented several policies, plans, and strategies aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, food security, and sustainability in the region. The key regulations include the ones discussed in table 6 below.

Table 6: Agriculture and AE Regulatory Framework for SADC

Regulation	Detail
SADC MAPP	Launched in 2008, the programme focused on training farmers in the best agricultural practices to improve productivity. It emphasized knowledge sharing, capacity building, and the adoption of sustainable agricultural techniques. This initiative played a crucial role in empowering farmers, enhancing their skills, and equipping them with the necessary tools and information to increase agricultural productivity and promote sustainable development (FANR, 2007).
SADC FNSS 2015-2025	Introduced in 2015, the strategy aimed to improve food production and access to adequate and appropriate food. It also addressed the safety of food consumption, considering both biological and social environments. The strategy emphasized the sustainable availability and utilization of food, recognizing the importance of a holistic approach to achieving food security within the region. This initiative strove to ensure that all individuals have access to nutritious and safe food, contributing to their overall well-being and reducing hunger and malnutrition (Gerster-Bentaya et al., 2015).
Regional Strategic Framework	Implemented in 2022, the framework places a strong emphasis on incorporating climate education and sustainability into the education curriculum. The initiative recognizes the importance of raising awareness among individuals, particularly students, about climate change and sustainable practices. By integrating climate education into the curriculum, the framework aims to guide building of a knowledgeable and environmentally conscious generation that can contribute to addressing the challenges posed by climate change and promote sustainable development (Pedersen et al., 2022).

1. Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Southern Africa (KHSA)

KHSA works with country partners in Zambia, Malawi, Namibia, and South Africa who deploy sector-wide approaches (with nation-wide stakeholders) or longer-term multiplier support programmes (MSP) with lead farmers or training institutions. The South African-based Sustainability Institute supports project implementation in the region. KHSA aims to scale up the adoption of organic and agroecological farming practices across Southern Africa. The hub collects, verifies, validates, and disseminates both traditional and scientific knowledge. KHSA's efforts have significantly contributed to the promotion of sustainable agriculture and the improvement of livelihoods for small-holder farmers in Southern Africa. By fostering knowledge exchange, building strong networks, and supporting innovative projects, KHSA is helping to create a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector in the region.

In South Africa, KHSA supports the South African Organic Sector Organisation (SAOSO) and Participatory Guarantee System South Africa (PGS SA) in implementing their PGS Pollinator Programme. The programme trains multipliers and supports them to create new PGS groups, facilitating market access for farmers and encouraging community-level knowledge-sharing spaces³³.

3.2.4.1 Madagascar

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Madagascar is one of Africa's advanced countries in EOA having complied with all the requirements and classified as a type 1 country. The country has an effective National Organic Agricultural Movement (NOAM) which has been at the forefront of supporting the development of standards, regulations, and government policies as well as the development of both the domestic and export markets.

The Organic Agriculture Law of May 2020

- It defines conditions regulating marketing of organic products, and spells out the system of assessing organic products and defines the offences and penalties provided for in this law.

Road map for the Organic Agriculture Law of May 2020

- Policy intent expressed in the National Agricultural Investment Plan in 2015.
- Mapping of stakeholders in the organic sector ended in 2017.

Decree on 2018-397 (May 2018)

- Prohibited import, distribution, production, and sale of products of plant or animal origin derived from Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. The AgrImpact project in Madagascar.

The project is dedicated to assessing the impact of agroecological practices on farm system resilience.

- **Technical support:** It uses the farmer field schools and advanced modeling techniques to gauge the effectiveness of promoting agroecological practices (e.g., conservation and sustainable agriculture).

AE Practices: Sustainable agriculture and Conservation agriculture
Beneficiaries: Farmers, families, and students
Spatial Coverage: Vakinankaratra region
Value Chain: rainfed Rice, maize, groundnuts, ground peas, and fish farming
Funding Details: USD 821,090.01
Funding partner: Deval, GIZ

³³ Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Southern Africa (KHSA)

- **Policy:** It focuses on confronting the challenges of food insecurity and climate change by fostering climate change adaptation.

2. Madagascar Agriculture Rural Growth and Land Management

This project focuses on improving rural land tenure security and access to markets for targeted farming households in selected agricultural value chains.

AE Practice: Sustainable Agriculture
Beneficiaries: Farming households
Spatial Coverage: National
Value Chain: Grains (rice, beans, sorghum, millet, and green grams) and the dairy industry value chains.
Funding Details: US D55 Million
Funding partner: World Bank

- **Technical support:** The project also aimed to provide an immediate and effective response to eligible crises or emergencies. At national level, Madagascar has been improving capacity, policies, and promoting programs on organic production. For instance, the country recently embarked on the system of rice intensification that has seen the country increase its rice productivity, moving it from an importer of rice to an exporter of organic rice cultivars. Despite the progress made in EOA in Madagascar, there have been challenges ranging from limited investment capacity by smallholder farmers to fully uptake EOA, insufficient equipment and inefficient field staff and vulnerability to climate change.

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3.2.4.2 South Africa

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

South Africa is categorized as an EOA type 3 country which has developing domestic and export markets, some NGO activity, some guidelines and exports, but little government support, developed private standards which are approved by IFOAM, and have been passed as compliant with the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS)³⁴. Farming practices are majorly conventional and characterized by a mix of intensive chemical use, extensive grain cropping, genetic engineering, and grazing. Overall, there is no overarching policy on agroecology, but elements of agroecological practices are scattered throughout the policy landscape, especially on social, nutrition, and ecological grounds. Numerous policies, plans, and programmes have elements that can be consolidated to underpin an agroecology strategy. Some of the existing policies include: -

³⁴ EOA Assessment for AU 2021

National Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 2017

- The objective of the policy is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) to support sustainable agriculture and livelihoods, enhancing the diversity of species, functional diversity, and genetic resources, thereby maintaining overall agroecosystem.

Conservation Agriculture Policy, 2022

- Guides widespread adoption of conservation agriculture in agricultural production systems (minimum tillage, crop rotation, and soil cover). The policy promotes and establishes ecologically and economically sustainable agricultural systems that reduces dependency on purchased inputs (including synthetic agrochemicals) and increases self-sufficiency.

National Policy on comprehensive Producer Development Support, 2019

- Aims to regulate and guide interventions (support services) provided to various categories of producers within the agriculture sectors. This includes promoting indigenous knowledge in biodiversity conservation thus enhancing the EA principles of co-creation of knowledge and participation as well as reducing system vulnerability and increasing resilience.

Conservation Agriculture Policy draft, 2022

- Introduces strategies and approaches for adapting to climate change in agriculture and forestry. There is strong emphasis on protection, restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources.

White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity draft 2022

- The strategic document aims to promote the conservation of South Africa's rich biodiversity and ecological infrastructure, supporting ecosystem functioning. It invites public comments and outlines measures for sustainable biodiversity management.

The Overberg Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

- The scheme started in 2016 and is affiliated with Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) South Africa. Overberg PGS contributes significantly to the promotion of ecological organic agriculture in South Africa, fostering sustainable practices and local market connections. It ensures traceability through ongoing social interaction and mutual learning.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Transitions to Agroecological Food Systems (TAFS) project

A multi-country research project launched in 2020. The main objective of the project was to provide policymakers and stakeholders with convincing arguments about the importance and adapted ways of promoting agroecological transitions to address current and coming sustainability challenges.

- **Technical interventions:**

Development of practical tools and guidelines for farmers, such as crop rotation plans, natural pest control methods, and soil conservation techniques. The

<p>Implementation time: 2020 – Current Funding: EU Lead actor: CIRAD Partners: Southern Africa Food Lab</p>
--

project has facilitated knowledge exchange among farmers, researchers, and extension agents, fostering innovation and adaptation.

- **Awareness interventions:** TAFS has raised awareness about agroecology through educational programs, community events, and media outreach. They emphasize the importance of biodiversity, soil health, and local knowledge.
- **Advocacy intervention:** TAFS has engaged with policymakers, farmers, and civil society organizations to promote agroecological practices. Advocacy efforts include policy dialogues, workshops, and campaigns to highlight the benefits of sustainable food systems.

2. The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Southern Africa

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Southern Africa (KHTA) is part of the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA), a collaborative country-led partnership. The KCOA aims to scale up the adoption of organic farming practices through five knowledge hubs in Africa over a four-year period³⁵.

Implementation time: 2019 – Current
Funding: German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Lead actor: GIZ
Partners: SAOSO

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³⁵ <https://www.sustainabilityinstitute.net/growing-organic-knowledge-and-networks-in-southern-africa/>

An assessment of support for agroecology in South Africa's policy landscape, Background document, 2023. <https://acbio.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Assessment-for-agroecology-in-South-Africa.pdf>

TAFS Policy Brief #2 Learning from Local Initiatives for Agroecological Development in South Africa. <https://foodsecurity.ac.za/publications/tafs-policy-brief-2-learning-from-local-initiatives-for-agroecological-development-in-south-africa/>

3.2.4.3 Zimbabwe

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Zimbabwe is classified as type 3 EOA category. The country lacks explicit agroecology policies, but conservation and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) are recognized in draft documents which include many agroecological practices. Nonetheless, advocacy and lobbying efforts have led to some policy shifts towards supporting agroecology. Some of the policies that support EOA include: -

Public funding for Pfumvudza program at a national scale

- The programme incorporates some Stage 1 elements of AE. The government has adopted a pricing system which allows the producer price of traditional grains which are more climate resilient to be at par with maize. This move will promote the production of traditional grains because of higher producer prices and there is an expected increase on the consumption side.

Government approval of the issuance of a Diploma in Agroecology

- Diploma in Agroecology will be issued through Fambidzanayi Centre of Permaculture. The Ministry of agriculture also allowed a change on the curricula of the Agricultural colleges to include the study of agroecology and indigenous food crops. This will result in a major shift in extension advice to farmers which will see the incorporation of indigenous knowledge as part of the acceptable farmer practices.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level

1. Recognizing, Supporting Agroecology through Protecting Mass Markets in Seven Districts of Zimbabwe

The project focused on protecting mass markets in seven districts by supporting agroecological approaches. These practices enhanced food security, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability for over one million small-scale farmers. Initiatives included awareness campaigns, livestock and wildlife management, and landscape resilience regeneration.

Implementation time: April 2022 - March 2023
Funding: Agroecology fund (\$120,000)
Lead actor: PELUM Zimbabwe
Partners: Knowledge Transfer Africa (KTA)
Achievement: Enhanced food security, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability for over one million small-scale farmers

- **Technical component:** Strengthening the establishment/broadening of markets for agroecological products.

- **Policy:** Influenced the development of policies towards creating a conducive environment that recognizes, supports, and protects agroecological products and markets; emphasizing farmers’ rights, agroecology, and gender justice.
- **Awareness component:** Documented and shared lessons on agroecology contribution through mass markets.

References

Strengthening Farmer Resilience in Zimbabwe through Sustainable Synergies between Crops and Livestock

Agroecology Enterprises for Africa – Zimbabwe Country Study, Billy Mukamuri and Tarisayi Pedzisa, 2021

3.2.5 West Africa

As part of its commitment to achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has implemented several regulatory, policy, and legal frameworks to facilitate the adoption of agroecological interventions in West Africa.

Table 7: Agriculture and AE Regulatory Framework for ECOWAS

Regulation	Detail
2000s Favorable Policies for Agricultural Growth	From the 2000s onwards, there was a shift towards more favorable policies for agricultural growth in West Africa after a period of neglect. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), implemented through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), played a significant role in promoting agricultural productivity and sustainability (Hollinger, 2015).
Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAP)	The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) developed the Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAP) in 2005 as part of the implementation of CAADP 2015 (Tapsoba et al, 2020).
Other ECOWAS Regional Agricultural Policies	ECOWAP co-exists with other regional agricultural policies, such as the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Food Security (CSSA) of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the WAEMU Agricultural Policy (PAU) of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). These regional policies, including ECOWAP, show a renewed interest in the Green Revolution and prioritize agricultural intensification and the use of chemical inputs (Tapsoba et al, 2020).
National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP) & Regional Agricultural Investment Program	The implementation of ECOWAP is based on NAIPs at the national level and the RAIP at the regional level. However, the orientation of these plans largely focuses on “productive” investments and increasing production through measures like fertilizer subsidies. There is a notable lack of political recognition

	of agroecology, which may undermine its credibility among farmers (Tapsoba et al, 2020).
Forest Policy for ECOWAS	The policy is part of the broader ECOWAS Environmental Policy and aims to address the challenges of forest conservation and sustainable management through sustainable management of forests and preservation of biodiversity, combating desertification and soil degradation (FAO, 2006) and policy integration of forestry with land use planning and watershed management (FAO, 2006).
Regional Strategy for the Promotion of Fertilizers in West Africa (SRPEAO)	According to SRPEAO, the low yields among small-scale farmers in SSA is attributed to the limited utilization of external inputs like fertilizers, over-reliance on traditional farming methods, and the narrow focus on intensification. In addressing these challenges, the strategy promotes use of both mineral and organic fertilizers, which aligns with agroecological practices that emphasize soil health and fertility.
Action Plan on AE	Implemented CAADP through integration of various agroecological interventions, including agroforestry, integrated pest management, organic farming, and climate-smart agriculture technologies- highlighting importance of agrobiodiversity, efficient water management, and access to agricultural information and research (ECOWAS, 2016).

1. Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in West Africa (KHWa)

KHWa is managed by Enda Pronat, the Fédération Nationale pour l'Agriculture Biologique (FENAB), and Agrecol Afrique, with each organization coordinating one of the three KCOA fields of action in the region under the overall supervision of Enda Pronat. Together, these organizations are implementing the project in Senegal and Gambia. In the other cluster countries, the project is run by the Coordination Nationale des Organisations Paysannes (CNOP) in Mali, the Centre Songhaï in Benin, and Nigerian Organic Agriculture Network (NOAN) in Nigeria. KHWa focuses on enhancing organic knowledge across the five countries. This knowledge is collected, verified, and validated in collaboration with local communities, and reviewed by an external committee of experts. A key strength of KHWa lies in its capacity-building efforts and the dissemination of knowledge products to key multipliers through diverse and strategically planned distribution channels. Innovative flagship activities such as organic weekends and awareness campaigns for the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) are fostering stronger networks among stakeholders in the value chains across the five countries³⁶. These efforts are also stimulating policy dialogue to scale up agroecology and organic farming in West Africa.

3.2.5.1 Benin

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Benin is categorized as an EOA type 3 (Infant EOA Sector) country with developing domestic and export markets. The country has some NGO activity and guidelines and very little Government support. Organic farmers are organized and participate in both domestic and

³⁶ <https://khea-africa.org/other-knowledge-hubs/>

export. The agriculture sector has implemented various policies and strategies to enhance production and market integration.

National Long-term Vision-Benin Alafia 2025

- The strategic framework lays emphasis in the environmental sustainability, good governance, and empowerment of communities through EOA towards achieving equitable societies by 2025.

Benin's Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agricultural Sector (PSDSA)(2017-2025)

- The plan adopted in 2017 is aimed at strengthening agricultural sector through efficient production and sustainable management of farms. It aligns with the EOA principles in that it promotes adaptation to climate change and sustainable management of resources.

Benin Strategy of Low Carbon Development and Climate Resilience (2016-2025)

- The strategy is aimed at assessing the vulnerability and the greenhouse mitigation potential. Its objective aligns with EOA principle in that it strengthens the resilience of Benin's population and economic production systems reducing anthropogenic greenhouse emissions and protection for vulnerable communities.

Benin's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)2015-2030)

- Though INDCs, the country has committed to reducing the vulnerability of communities and ecosystems to climate change using appropriate eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Benin's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

- The plan promotes biodiversity and ecosystem management while adopting a participatory approach to ensure citizens are involved in protecting the biodiversity, restoration of ecosystems, and good governance of the natural resources sustainably thus aligning with EOA principles.

National Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (PANA) 2008

- The programme promotes integration of environmental considerations into plans, programme, and projects ensuring agricultural sectors sustainability, hence promoting ecologically sound practices. Its focus on promoting climate smart agriculture and environmental conservation aligns with the EOA principles.

EOA principles include the following:

National Long-term Vision-Benin Alafia 2025

- The strategic framework lays emphasis in the environmental sustainability, good governance, and empowerment of communities through EOA towards achieving equitable societies by 2025.

Benin's Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agricultural Sector (PSDSA)(2017-2025)

- The plan adopted in 2017 is aimed at strengthening agricultural sector through efficient production and sustainable management of farms. It aligns with the EOA principles in that it promotes adaptation to climate change and sustainable management of resources.

Benin Strategy of low Carbon Development and Climate Resilience (2016-2025)

- The strategy is aimed at assessing the vulnerability and the greenhouse mitigation potential. Its objective aligns with EOA principle since it strengthens the resilience of Benin's population and economic production systems, reducing anthropogenic greenhouse emissions and protection for vulnerable communities.

Benin's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)2015-2030)

- Though INDCs the country has committed to reducing the vulnerability of communities and ecosystems to climate change using appropriate eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Benin's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

- The plan promotes biodiversity and ecosystem management while adopting a participatory approach to ensure citizens are involved in protecting the biodiversity, restoration of ecosystems and good governance of the natural resources sustainably thus aligning with EOA principles.

National Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (PANA) 2008

- The programme promotes integration of environmental considerations into plans, programme, and projects, ensuring agricultural sectors sustainability, hence promoting ecologically sound practices. Its focus on promoting climate-smart agriculture and environmental conservation aligns with the EOA principles.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Enhancing Soybean Production through Biofertilizer and Intercropping Techniques in Benin

The project encompassed activities such as the isolation of root nodule bacteria, farmer training, and collaboration to access export markets through the Green Innovation Centre for the Agri-Food Sector in Benin.

- **Technical Intervention:** The project supported farmers and women groups in training on bio fertilizer application practices including use of N-15 techniques to evaluate the

amount of atmospheric N fixed by soybean varieties and best varieties selection. The technical support was offered by IAEA Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) in collaboration with National Agriculture Institute (INRAB) while Government supplied inoculum.

Implementation period: December 2015- 2026
Funders: West and Central Africa Division, IFAD, OPEC Fund for International Development, National Government, ASAP Trust Fund and Beneficiaries.
Lead actors: IFAD
Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing
Achievement: Improved resilience and livelihoods of the farmers.

Awareness intervention: In collaboration with farmers and Sojagnon Association, a local NGO, the project has conducted demonstrations on the benefits of bio-fertilizers in soybeans. This has promoted the adoption of soil health enhancing practices³⁷.

2. Market Gardening Development Support Project

It strategically integrates organic and sustainable agroecological practices that aim to mitigate agricultural risks by implementing climate adaptation measures. In addition to establishing an insurance scheme supporting the development of various value chains.

- **Technical intervention:** Promote the adoption of technologies and techniques to improve the productivity of vegetable producers and build their resilience to the impact of climate change. Support the development of price and market vegetable information systems, the development of extension services, and create jobs for young people. Construction and restoration of infrastructure for regrouping, packaging, and temporary storage facilities of gardening inputs and produce.
- **Awareness intervention:** Establishing Demo farms that showcase EOA methods and practices, allowing farmers to observe and learn through hands-on experience, and thereafter, replicate the knowledge at their individual farms.
- **Advocacy intervention:** Enhancement of partnerships with NGOs, community groups, and agricultural organizations to amplify the message of EOA.

3. Growing Benin's Organic Cotton Sector³⁸

Started in 2021, the project aims at strengthening the organic cotton sector for sustainable cotton production in the county among 9,000 farmers.

- **Technical initiative:** Promoting local level organic cotton production, certification, and crop diversification. Additionally, building farmers' resilience against the impacts of climate change as well as improving livelihoods.

Implementation period: November 2021 - October 2024
Funders: Traid
Lead actors: OBEPAB and PAN UK
Partners: Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK, Paul Reinhart AG, Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF), Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB)
AE Elements: Organic farming
Achievement: Adoption of organic farming, building local farmers resilience against climatic

³⁷ <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/biofertilizer-and-intercropping-technologies-facilitating-agroecological-transition>

³⁸ <https://traid.org.uk/projects/growing-benins-cotton/>

- **Awareness Initiative:** Mobilization of farmers to adopt organic production through the Farmers Field School Model.

4. Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) Standard³⁹

Integrating sustainable agricultural methods to aid farmers in adapting to climate change while revitalizing soil fertility. The standard serves to evaluate prevalent rice cultivation practices and foster the adoption of climate-smart and more sustainable approaches to rice farming.

Technical Intervention: Assessing the prevalent good agricultural practices in rice growing and promoting climate-smart and more sustainable rice production practices such as the use of neem-coated urea, the use of legumes and organic fertilizers, the adapted System of Rice Intensification (SRI), weed management, and the valorization of crop residue.

Implementation period: 2019-20205
Funders: ENABEL
Lead Partners: Rikolto
Partners: Rikolto, sector organizations, universities, INRAB
AE Elements: Sustainable Agriculture
Achievement: Increased adoption of profitable and soil-friendly production techniques

- **Advocacy intervention:** Strengthening organizational and institutional capacities of actors in Benin’s rice sector with regards to climate change. Collaboration between Rikolto and other stakeholders, such as the sector organizations, universities, and the National Agriculture Research Institute of Benin (INRAB), has been strengthened through the project.
- **Awareness:** Promotion of learning and adoption of Good Agronomic Practices through Farmer Field Schools and exchange farmer visits.

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<https://traid.org.uk/projects/growing-benins-cotton/>

[Stories | An agroecological transition in Benin: rice farmers are moving towards more sustainable practices following the SRP Standard \(rikolto.org\)](#)

³⁹ [Stories | An agroecological transition in Benin: rice farmers are moving towards more sustainable practices following the SRP Standard \(rikolto.org\)](#)

3.2.5.2 Mali

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Mali is classified as a type 2 EOA country with developing organic policies and product standards, the government has promised some support, organic farmers are organized, and they participate in both export and domestic markets. Due to the growing interest in promoting Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) as an alternative to conventional chemical-intensive farming, the country is actively promoting a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach to agriculture through capacity building, policy formulation and awareness creation. While there are EOA-specific policies in the county, there have been efforts towards developing agriculture policies and policy briefs such as the Policy Brief on Organic Farming and Covid-19 Impact integrating EOA principles such as those listed below.

Policy Brief on Organic Farming and COVID-19 Impact

- Developed in 2021, focused on assessment of the impact of Covid-19. The policy recommends, enhancing resilience to climate change and social risks to protect organic farming investments and livelihoods while improving agricultural productivity and competitiveness.

Programme d'Action National d'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques (PANA) (2005-2007)

- Outlines the country's priorities for adapting to climate change, focusing on vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and health. The program aims to enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the adverse effects of climate change.

Politique Forestière Nationale (2007)

- A national forestry policy established in 2007 and promotes sustainable forest management, conservation, and restoration, provides guidelines on protecting and managing forest resources, encouraging reforestation, promotes community engagement in forest management, and strengthening of the legal and institutional frameworks.

Strategic Investment Framework for Sustainable Land Management in Mali (CSI-GDT) (2010, approved in 2014)

- Aimed at promoting sustainable land management (SLM) practices across the country. Focuses on combating land degradation and enhancing agricultural productivity and promotes sustainable land management practices and capacity building across six strategic pillars.

Politique Nationale sur les Changements Climatiques (PNCC) (2011)

- Focuses on ecological system adaptation and resilience, addresses deforestation, and soil erosion.

Plan National d'Investissement dans le Secteur Agricole 2014 (PNISA) (2014)

- Advocates for Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and community forest management, and sustainable land and water management aligning with environmental-friendly farming practices.

Plan National d'Investissement Prioritaire dans le Secteur Agricole au Mali, 2011-2015 (PNIP-SA) (2011-2015)

- Champions farmer empowerment through training and access to information and promotes agroforestry as an AE sustainable farming practice.

Politique de Développement Agricole (PDA)

- Incorporates sustainable land and water management practices, promotes sustainable agricultural practices to ensure long-term soil fertility and environmental health.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Multi-Energy for Resilience and Integrated Territorial Management Project⁴⁰

The project aims to enhance food and nutritional security, reduce poverty, and build resilience, including climate resilience among impoverished rural populations in southern Mali. The main objective is to increase sustainable access to renewable energy and improve soil productivity. The project has strengthened the climate resilience of ecosystems by promoting low-emission energy sources.

Implementation Period: 20008 -2019

Funders: World Bank

Lead partners: West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD).

Partners: National Agricultural Research Institute (Institut d'Économie Rurale - IER), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

Achievements: Farmers have revitalized their productivity through the planting of higher yielding rice varieties and more pest resistant tomatoes, the use of an adapted seed drill to economize seeds, and the production of corn to feed livestock thus increasing their milk production.

- **Technical Intervention:** Training in renewable energy and soil improvement practices coupled with installation of biodigesters.
- **Policy Advocacy intervention** Promotes an inclusive policy dialogue on strategies relating to renewable energies, especially biogas through a multi-actor platform that brings together public and private stakeholders.
- **Advocacy intervention:** The project uses integrated territorial management which adopts communal adaptation plans aligned with national agricultural policy. This involved preparing 150 communal adaptation plans through a participatory bottom-up approach to diagnostics and planning to increase awareness in the community targets.

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<https://www.ifad.org/en/-/mali-2000001896-merit-supervision-report-october-2023>

⁴⁰ <https://www.ifad.org/en/-/mali-2000001896-merit-supervision-report-october-2023>

3.2.5.3 Nigeria

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Nigeria is categorized as a type 3 category of EOA with little government support, organic farmers are organized, and they participate in both export and domestic markets. Nigeria's rich indigenous knowledge, favorable climate, and abundant natural resources create an ideal environment for Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA). The country has no EOA-specific policies, strategies, or plans but institutions and national government, have been drawn towards supporting EOA policy development in the country, especially in environmental aspects. Some of the policies and strategies that integrate the EOA principles include:

The Agriculture Promotion Policy (APP) of 2016

- Developed in 2016 and aims at addressing food shortage and creating a sustainable agricultural sector in Nigeria.
- The policy also supports the development of agricultural value chains and the adoption of climate-smart agriculture.
- The policy promotes enhancing market access including exporting organic products, agribusiness, and supporting agricultural research and technology adoption aligns with EOA principles.

Nigeria Zero Hunger Strategic Review of 2017

- The policy recommends modernization of agriculture and more sustainable management of agricultural resources which is key to achieving zero hunger.
- These include, production inputs such as mineral and organic fertilizers, soil conditioners, Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) among others across all commodity value chains, thus aligned with ecological organic agriculture.

National Policy on Environment of 1991 and revised in 1999

- The policy promotes management of environment and natural resources in Nigeria for sustainable development.

Agriculture Policy for Nigeria of 2018

- The policy provides for effective utilization of agricultural bi-products and waste into valuable products such as fish meal, bone meal etc promoting environmental protection.
- Also encourages use of local materials in manufacturing of organic fertilizer.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience in Nigeria⁴¹

The project focuses on addressing key environmental and socioeconomic drivers of food insecurity across three agro-ecological zones. The project focuses on activities including those aligned with EOA such as building capacity for sustainable agricultural practices.

- **Technical intervention:** Promoting sustainable land and water management and climate-smart agricultural practices,

⁴¹ https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40293820/IAP_Nigeria.pdf/24888961-71f6-4d69-8133-43e83784ab97?t=1526040142000

- **Advocacy intervention:** The state, CSOs, universities, and research Institutions are involved in advocacy, mobilization, training, research, technical input, and knowledge sharing including the implementation of the Nigeria Agriculture Promotion Policy (NAPP) and environment conservation policy and legal frameworks.
- **Awareness intervention:** Establishment of the national- and state-level multi-stakeholder, gender-sensitive platforms advocating sustainable agriculture and sustainable land and water management practices for improved food security.

Implementation Period: 2012 - 2024
Funders: UNDP
Lead partners: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Partners: Local and national government, CSOs, universities, and research Institutions
Achievements: 350Ha of land under integrated and sustainable management, GHG emissions avoided or reduced
Challenges: Degraded environment which further is exacerbated by climate change, intensify the frequency of droughts and floods in Nigeria, with resulting crop and livestock losses, and further land and forest degradation.

2. Investments in Agroecology Value Chains Project (IAVCP)

The project aims to identify viable business opportunities linked to agroecology clusters and value chains, providing investment support for integrated agroecology production systems, and offer grants to Medium, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and agroecology Producer Organization Enterprises (POE) to improve their value addition and market linkages.

Implementation Period: 2023 -
Funders: IFAD
Lead partners: IFAD & Federal Government of Nigeria
Partners:
Achievements: Integration of AE principles, sustainability of smallholder farmers, and establishment of viable agroecology-based business.

- **Technical intervention:** The project provides technical assistance to MSMEs and POEs regarding production, value addition, and market linkages in an incubation programme.

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3.2.5.4 Senegal

EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies

Categorized as a type 2 country, Senegal has some government support, a policy underway, a strong National Organic Agriculture Movement (NOAM), a domestic market, and strong NGO and farmer support. There is no national regulation on organic agriculture in Senegal, but the existing agricultural framework includes provisions for sustainable agriculture and elements of EOA. Some of the policies include: -

Plan for an Emerging Senegal (PSE) (2015-2035)

- The plan indirectly supports EOA by promoting a holistic approach to sustainable development. This includes enhancing resilience, improving disaster and risk prevention, and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, which are crucial for promoting agroecological practices.

National Strategy and National Action Plan for Biodiversity (2015-2020)

- The plan aims to improve biodiversity knowledge and strengthen institutional and technical capacity, reduce pressures and restore and conserve biodiversity, promote biodiversity accounting in socioeconomic development policies and promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and mechanisms for accessing biological resources, and equitably sharing of the benefits derived from them.

Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) of 2014

- Asserts that green investments in sustainable agriculture technologies and techniques will prevent soil degradation and lead to an increase in agricultural production. PAGE has worked directly with multiple branches of government to mainstream green economy advocacy at the national and sub-national levels and has leveraged its specialised expertise to help formulate and implement the National Strategy on green economy.

National Agricultural Investment Plan [PNIA] (2010-2020)

- Recognizes the importance of combating environmental degradation challenges in order to increase agricultural productivity, which is an ecologically sound practice.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) of 2002

- Supports and promotes environmentally friendly agriculture as a way of sustainable production, which is in line with EOA principles.

National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA) of 2006

- Environmental protection and conservation is one of the primary objectives of this Plan, therefore, it invariably supports eco-friendly agricultural practices that align EOA.

Interventions to facilitate the adoption of agroecology at scale at the national level.

1. Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA)

SCALA is actively promoting the adoption of agroecological practices in the groundnut/millet and market gardening system. The main objective is to strengthen and expand the knowledge base on priority practices and technologies at the local level, in line with the adaptation, resilience, and carbon storage targets outlined in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), while catalysing private sector engagement in the implementation of these practices⁴².

⁴² <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/scala-senegal>

- **Technical interventions:** Promoting sustainable agriculture-livestock-agroforestry systems, implementing sustainable land management practices, encouraging the use of adapted crop varieties, assisted natural regeneration, supporting natural forest regeneration, and intensive rice cultivation system, prioritizing mitigation efforts in rice cultivation and utilizing organic waste for soil enrichment.
- **Awareness intervention:** Raising awareness among local communities about climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, enhancing knowledge and skills related to climate-smart practice and conducting workshops to disseminate information.
- **Advocacy interventions:** Engaging with policymakers to integrate climate priorities into planning and budgeting, collaborating with private entities for scaling up climate action and advocating for vulnerable ecosystems and their protection.

Implementation time: 2021 - 2025
Funding: International Climate Initiative (IKI)
Lead actor: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) & United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Partners:
Achievement:

- Preserved natural resources and decarbonized agriculture for resilient food and livelihood systems.
- Increased resilience through agricultural income and investments in the local economy
- Enhanced food security and decent local employment

2. Dynamics for an Agroecological Transition in Senegal (DyTAES)

DyTAES is a national network in Senegal that brings together various stakeholders committed to promoting agroecological transition. It includes producer organizations, consumer groups, rural women, NGOs, research institutions, civil society networks, local elected officials, and businesses. DyTAES aims to scale up agroecology

Partners: Farmers, grassroots community organizations, non-governmental organizations, researchers, and private companies
Achievement:

- The country's Minister of Agriculture devoted 10% of subsidies to organic fertilizers this coming winter.
- Policy recommendations for the country's agro ecological transition

by advocating, raising awareness, sharing experiences, and supporting transition initiatives across the country. Through consultations, workshops, and practical projects DyTAES contributes to sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty in Senegal⁴³

Advocacy interventions: DyTAES brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including producer organizations, consumers, NGOs, research institutions, and local elected officials. This collaborative approach ensures that various perspectives are considered in the advocacy process. Members have actively contributed to national policies on agroecological transition by drawing up documents and engaging in policy dialogues. They have helped shape the national agenda towards more sustainable agricultural practices⁴⁴.

⁴³ https://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Contribution_DyTAES.pdf

⁴⁴ <https://dytaes.sn/publications/>

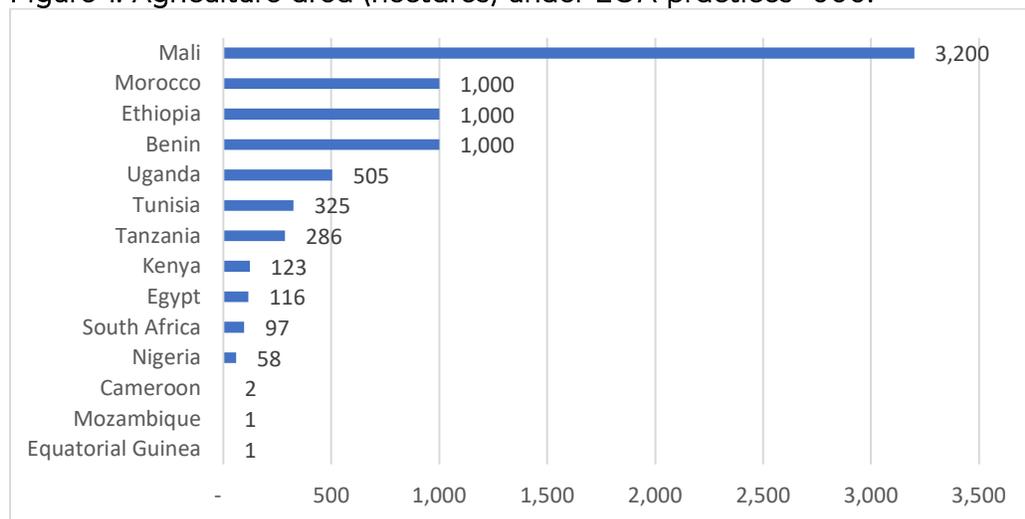
3.3 Monitoring of EOA Indicators on Nutrition, Food Security and Climate Change

The data types being monitored for EOA across multiple countries primarily relate to key agricultural metrics and practices that align with food security, nutrition, climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. They are closely aligned with the indicators of the CAADP results framework. The EOA-I, with the guidance of the African Union Commission - Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE) chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC), has made commendable policy achievement by having status and progress of the AU Decision on organic Agriculture reported for the first time in the third CAADP Biennial Review Report (2015-2021). Further milestone has been achieved in the fourth CAADP Biennial Review where three indicators related to EOA/Agroecology were adopted⁴⁵. They include:

Agriculture area under EOA practices: This measures the total area of arable land in Hectares being managed under EOA practices.⁴⁶ In the current EOA project countries (under SDC support), Mali emerged as the country with the largest area under EOA reporting 3.2 million hectares, followed by Benin (1.0 million hectares), Ethiopia (1.0 million hectares), Uganda (505,000 hectares), Tanzania (286,000 hectares), Kenya (123,000), and Nigeria (58,000 hectares).

Other countries that had considerable land under EOA are Morocco (1.0 million hectares), Tunisia (325,000 hectares), Egypt (116,000 hectares), and South Africa (97,000 hectares). Countries with considerably smaller land on EOA include Equatorial Guinea (510 hectares), Mozambique (1404 hectares), and Cameroon (1969 hectares). This is illustrated in figure 1 below. The 60% reporting success rate for this indicator is a clear indication that EOA data is available, and countries could aim at reporting at 100% in subsequent cycles.

Figure 1: Agriculture area (hectares) under EOA practices "000."



Source: Fourth Biennial Review Report, 2024

⁴⁵ https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/43556-doc-EN_4th_CAADP_Biennial_Review_Report-COMplete.pdf

⁴⁶ Examples of farming practices in EOA include Organic farming, Sustainable Agriculture, Bio-intensive agriculture, Permaculture, Ecological farming, Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM)

Status of Farmer Managed Seed Systems in national seed policy instruments and institutional arrangements: In the fourth BR report, a total of 43 countries reported that in some way, there is national discussion around Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS). A total of 18 countries recorded progress above 70% meaning they have presence of enabling conditions such as policy, strategy, proclamation, ordinance and investments or programs in place. Partial recognition of FMSS by governments in the rest of the countries was reported⁴⁷. In the 2023 Seed Sector Performance Index (SSPI) report developed by TASA Inc., in collaboration with the African Union Commission's African Seed and Biotechnology Program (ASBP) and AGRA; an analytical tool was applied to provide a single score measurement of the health of seed systems across Africa⁴⁸. The indicator on the status of FMSS in national seed policy instruments and institutional arrangements tracked the status of FMSS in national seed policy instruments (seed policy, laws, regulations, or decrees) and institutional arrangements that promote an enabling environment for a competitive seed sector that encourages private sector and community participation in seed sector development.

Eight countries (Ethiopia, Lesotho, Zambia, Nigeria, Eswatini, Tanzania, Guinea, and Uganda) scored "excellent". They recognize FMSS in their national seed policy and have substantive regulations to support FMSS. In Uganda, FMSS are recognized through the Seeds and Plant (Quality Declared Seed (QDS)) Regulation of 2019, while in Zambia, small-scale farmers are trained as seed growers. In these countries, seed regulations are relaxed and provide QDS schemes to help smallholders meet standards.

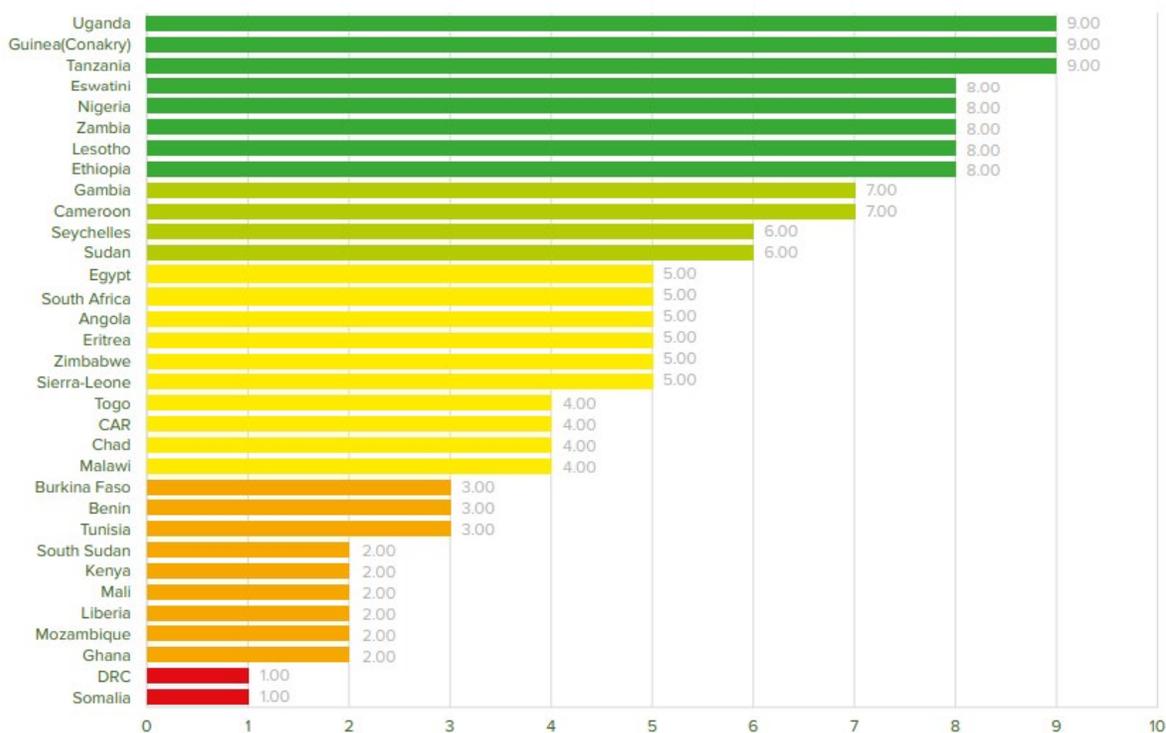
Four countries (Cameroon, the Gambia, Sudan, and Seychelles) scored "good" for recognizing FMSS in seed policy instruments and having training programs for small-scale farmers as seed growers. Ten countries (Malawi, Chad CAR, Togo, Sierra-Leone, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Angola, South Africa, and Egypt) scored "fair" for recognizing FMSS, but the relevant policy instruments are yet to be implemented or are currently under review. Nine countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Liberia, Mali, Kenya, South Sudan, Tunisia, Benin, and Burkina Faso) scored "poor" for they do not recognize FMSS in the policy instruments but are slated for inclusion in the latest reviews. In Kenya, the informal seed system is included in the draft seed policy, Chad has the Seeds and Seedlings of Plant Origin Law which recognizes the existence of local or traditional seeds, and plans are underway to register such varieties. In South Africa, the Plant Improvement Regulations allow for vulnerable households, and subsistence and smallholder farmers to save, reuse, or exchange seeds of certain crops, if the volume of seed they produce is below certain prescribed limits⁴⁹.

⁴⁷ <https://au.int/en/documents/20240229/4th-caadp-biennial-review-report-20125-2023>

⁴⁸ Excellent (8-10): FMSS are recognized in national policies and actively supported through substantial regulations; Good (6 to less than 8): FMSS are recognized in policies, with support mainly through training programs for small-scale farmers, Fair (4 to less than 6): FMSS are recognized, but relevant policies are either not implemented or under review, Poor (2 to less than 4): FMSS are not yet recognized in policies, but there are plans to include them in future revisions, Extremely Poor (0 to less than 2): No formal policy recognition of FMSS, but informal support may exist, Score of 0: FMSS are not recognized or supported in any form.

⁴⁹ https://agra.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/SSPI_report_2023_web.pdf

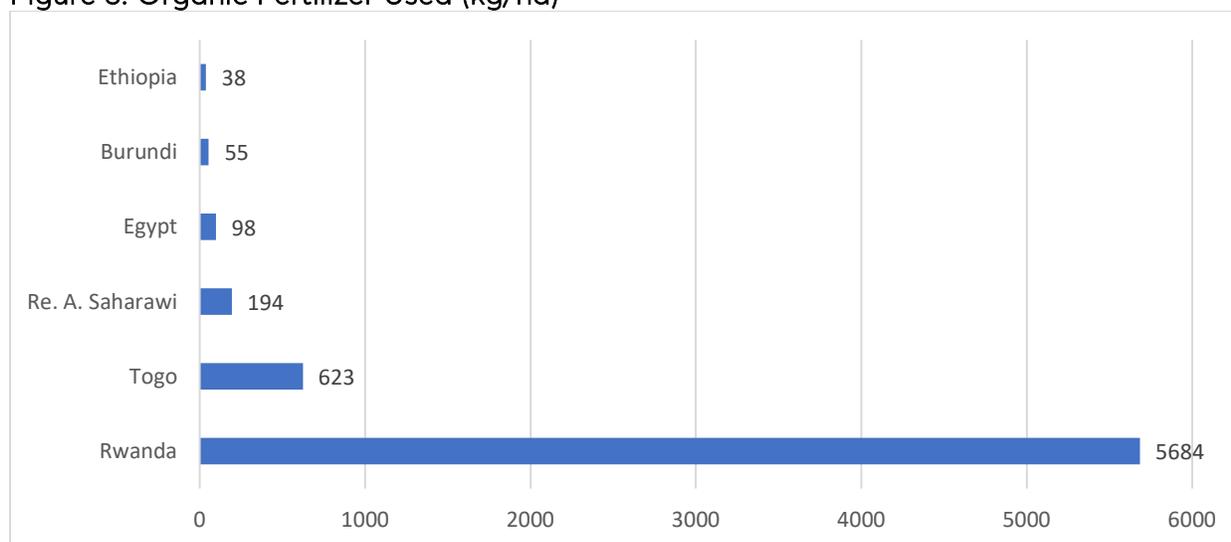
Figure 2: Status of farmer-managed seed systems in national seed policy instruments



Source: Seed Sector Performance Index – 2023 Report

Organic fertilizer use: Indicator 3.1i in the CAADP Biennial Review process tracks total fertilizer use, including organic fertilizers in kilograms without specifying nutrient breakdowns. Organic fertilizer data can't be mixed with inorganic fertilizer data based on nutrients but only by weight, which becomes more complex to track. Different ways were applied to capture quantities of "organic fertilizer" use. It is relatively simple to track inorganic fertilizers, which are industry-made and traded with known codes. Some countries report the estimates of composts produced and used at the farm level (e.g., Rwanda, Burundi), while others report the commercialized, well-packaged, and standardized organic fertilizers. Compared to arable lands, six countries submitted various quantities of organic fertilizer used in 2022. I.e., Rwanda (5,684 kg/ha), Togo (623 kg/ha) and Rep. A. Saharawi (194 kg/ha), Egypt (98 kg/ha), Burundi (55 kg/ha), and Ethiopia (38 kg/ha). 15 countries reported lower volumes, ranging between 1 and 3 kg of organic fertilizer per ha. This is illustrated in figure 2 below. The other 26 countries either had no data on organic fertilizers or reported zero kg of fertilizers, between 2015 and 2022.

Figure 3: Organic Fertilizer Used (kg/ha)



3.4 Monitoring system(s) erected to evaluate progress against the three CAADP indicators on EOA.

To support the monitoring of indicators related to the CAADP results framework, several structures and mechanisms are established at various levels. These include:

National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAFSIPs): These plans serve as frameworks for countries to outline their agricultural strategies, investments, and monitoring mechanisms. They include specific indicators and targets aligned with the CAADP Results Framework, facilitating systematic tracking of progress. Countries have developed robust M&E frameworks that outline the processes, tools, and indicators for tracking progress. These frameworks often include guidelines for data collection, analysis, and reporting, ensuring that monitoring efforts are systematic, and evidence based. Countries have also established data management systems that facilitate the collection, storage, and analysis of agricultural data. These systems help streamline the monitoring process and ensure that data is accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

Multi-Stakeholder platforms: Countries have established multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together various stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector entities, farmers' organizations, and research institutions, to collaboratively track and evaluate the progress of CAADP implementation. These platforms facilitate dialogue, collaboration, and joint monitoring efforts, ensuring that diverse perspectives are included in the assessment of agricultural performance.

National Statistical Bureaus: These offices are responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on various indicators, including those related to agriculture. They provide the necessary statistical frameworks and methodologies to ensure that data is reliable and comparable over time.

Technical working groups: These groups composed of experts from various sectors, are established to focus on specific areas of agricultural development. They provide technical support and guidance on monitoring indicators, ensuring that data collection methods are appropriate and aligned with national and regional goals.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs): RECs play a crucial role in consolidating data from member states and facilitating regional monitoring efforts. They provide a platform for peer review and learning, helping countries to share the best practices and address common challenges in agricultural development. The African Union Commission, through its development agency-AUDA NEPAD and other international development partners (AGRA, ReSAKSS by Akademiya2063, FAO, IFPRI, Policy Link, IFDC, IBAR, Harvest Plus provide training and capacity-building programs to enhance the skills of stakeholders involved in monitoring. These initiatives aim to strengthen data collection, analysis, and reporting capabilities at the national level.

3.4.1 Mechanisms to source and validate information.

The mechanisms for sourcing and validating information on CAADP indicators include biennial progress reports, regional multi-stakeholder review sessions, and standard reporting templates. The data is primarily provided by national governments, national statistical offices, civil society organizations, private sector actors, research institutions, and international development partners. These entities collect data based on their specific mandates/objectives and using different monitoring systems and methodologies.

To harmonize data formats and enable integration into frameworks like CAADP, structures have been put in place through standardization of indicators and alignment with broader frameworks like CAADP. The framework has established common definitions, units of measurement, and methodologies to ensure that data from different sources is comparable and can be aggregated effectively. This step is crucial for integrating EOA data into national and regional monitoring systems, ensuring that it contributes to the tracking of agricultural transformation goals. While challenges such as data gaps and inconsistent reporting remain, efforts to strengthen institutional capacity, harmonize methodologies, and foster mutual accountability are critical to ensuring that the CAADP process leads to sustainable agricultural transformation across the continent. The CAADP reporting process includes the following: -

Biennial review mechanism: The CAADP Results Framework includes a systematic review process where countries generate biennial progress reports based on a set of minimum core indicators. This systematic tracking and monitoring process involves collecting data at the national level, which is then validated through multi-stakeholder review and dialogue sessions. This mechanism allows for regular assessment of progress towards the Malabo commitments and facilitates accountability among stakeholders.

Standard reporting templates: A standard reporting template has been defined to guide countries in their reporting processes. This template helps ensure consistency and comparability of data across different countries and regions.

CHAPTER 4: REVIEW OF 2015- 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

The EOA-I was started because of African Heads of States and Government Decision EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII) on Organic Farming. The aim was to mainstream EOA into national agricultural production systems, policies, and practices by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets, and sustainable development in Africa. The Initiative envisioned a vibrant ecological organic system for enhanced food security and sustainable development in Africa. This was to be achieved by promoting ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, and marketing through strategic actions and policy making to alleviate poverty, guarantee adequate and healthy food security, improve livelihoods, and safeguard the environment.

4.1 Geographic Coverage

In its initial phase (2014-2018), the initiative was implemented in six countries: Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. Building upon the successes and lessons from Phase I, the second phase (2019-2023) also supported by SDC, expanded to include three additional countries: Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, bringing the total to nine participating nations. These countries were selected based on factors such as existing organic agriculture movements, government interest, and potential for value chain development.

However, the initiative has also influenced organic agriculture development in other countries such as Togo, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where organic movements and other initiatives have emerged due to its influence. Despite this progress, EOA-I coverage remains limited in fully representing Africa's agricultural landscape. Many regions, particularly in Central and North Africa, lack direct EOA-I engagement.

4.2 EOA-I Implementation and Coordination

The implementation structure was designed around three interrelated dimensions: mainstreaming, governance and coordination, and support functions. These dimensions were cascaded from the Continental, Regional, and National levels, ensuring effective execution and integration into policies, strategies, and agricultural systems.

At the highest level, the mainstreaming dimension focused on integrating EOA into national, regional, and continental agricultural policies and strategies. This function is primarily carried out by the African Union Commission (AUC), which provides political leadership, and mobilization for policy integration. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national governments also play key roles in ensuring that EOA principles are reflected in their respective agricultural frameworks. These institutions worked towards aligning EOA with the CAADP, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other strategic initiatives. Through this high-level engagement, EOA was positioned as a viable and sustainable approach to agricultural development in Africa.

The governance and coordination structure ensured that EOA activities are efficiently implemented and monitored at various levels. At the continental level, oversight is provided by the Continental Steering Committee (CSC), chaired by the AUC. The CSC comprised of

representatives from RECs, farmer organizations, research institutions, private sector actors, and development partners. Its primary mandate included providing strategic direction, fundraising, and monitoring the initiative's progress.

At the regional level, RECs bridge the continental policy frameworks with regional and national strategies. As key actors in the mainstreaming dimension, RECs facilitate the integration of EOA into regional agricultural policies, ensuring alignment with CAADP and other strategic initiatives. Their involvement strengthens regional policy coherence and fosters commitments from member states to adopt EOA principles in national agriculture. Among the RECs, ECOWAS and EAC have demonstrated stronger participation, with ECOWAS taking a leading role in coordinating EOA efforts at the west Africa regional level. Other RECS, including The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), and Southern African Development Community (SADC) have had limited engagement in EOA-I.

Regional Steering Committees (RSCs) oversee implementation within their respective geographical clusters, ensuring collaboration among countries. At the national level, each country has a National Steering Committee (NSC) responsible for approving work plans, budgets, and monitoring implementation. The NSCs ensure that EOA interventions align with national agricultural priorities and policies, fostering multi-stakeholder engagement.

The support functions of the EOA-I initiative play a crucial role in maintaining accountability and learning across implementing countries. This dimension is managed by Executing Agencies (EAs), with Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) being responsible for fund management, coordination, partner selection, capacity building, and overall program oversight. It also hosts the Continental Secretariat, which supports the CSC in strategic planning and implementation. At the regional and national levels, Regional and National Secretariats provide technical support, ensuring effective knowledge sharing, and facilitating partnerships among stakeholders. A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Learning (MERL) system is embedded within the initiative to track progress, generate evidence, and ensure continuous improvement in program implementation.

At the country level, implementation is carried out through Country Lead Organizations (CLOs), which coordinates national activities and initiates policy engagement. The CLOs were selected through National Platforms, which serve as multi-stakeholder forums comprising government ministries, private sector players, farmer organizations, and research institutions. Each country's EOA program is further executed by Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs), who focus on four thematic pillars: research & applied knowledge, information & communication, value chain & market development, management, coordination & governance. This pillar-based approach ensures that EOA is addressed holistically, covering scientific research, farmer training, market access and institutional strengthening.

BvAT plays a crucial role in ensuring that funds are managed efficiently and that implementing partners adhere to project objectives. As the key grant manager for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), BvAT administered the disbursement of funds to CLOs, ensured financial accountability, and provided technical assistance to partners while also facilitated knowledge sharing activities and advocacy for EOA integration at policy levels.

This model has ensured that the initiative remains financially sustainable while also allowing for continuous improvement through strategic planning and adaptation.

4.3 Funding and Sustainability

The Initiative was co-financed by the SDC, SSNC, and European Union through AU. SDC, which was the primary funding source, financed the initiative as part of its commitment to promoting sustainable agricultural practices in Africa. The total budget for the second phase of the project (2019-2023) was estimated at USD 6.3 million. However, a 60% funding gap remained, limiting the full implementation of planned interventions. The resources were expected to facilitate interventions across four pillars (research, knowledge dissemination, value chain strengthening, and support/cementing) at three levels (country, regional, and continental) among nine participating countries. This ambitious targeting led to a situation where each project element had received a disproportionately small allocation of resources. Further, the internal resources from the AU were minimal, making it significantly reliant on donor contributions and stakeholder inputs. Reliance on donor contributions raises questions about sustainability of the initiative particularly in the context of its operational framework beyond the funded project period.

Funding and sustainability in the EOA-I were strengthened by bringing in other donors to support EOA/AE in the broader African context (e.g. BMZ/GIZ) reflecting a growing recognition of organic agriculture's role in addressing Africa's food security, climate resilience, and sustainability challenges. The diversification of funding sources aligns with broader trends in EOA financing, where multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as private sector investments, are increasingly supporting agro-ecological transitions. A review of landscape assessment for Agroecology in Africa reveals that historically, multilateral institutions such as the UNDP, World Bank, and AfDB have played a dominant role in financing agroecological initiatives. However, there has been a shift in funding sources, with increasing support from bilateral donors, foundations, and private sector actors⁵⁰.

4.4 Continental Progress of the EOA Initiative

EOA-I has made progress in institutionalizing organic agriculture at the continental level by fostering collaboration among African governments, research institutions, and development partners. EOA-I was structured to align with major AU frameworks that guide Africa's agricultural policies and strategies. These include:

- **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP):** EOA-I was strategically aligned with the CAADP, particularly in the context of biennial reporting. This alignment was crucial for ensuring that EOA-I's progress and impact are systematically documented and evaluated within the broader framework of Africa's agricultural development goals. The alignment of EOA-I with the CAADP Biennial Review and the push to develop and include EOA indicators which measure various aspects of organic agriculture, such as the area under organic farming, number of farmers adopting EOA practices, and the volume of organic produce in the market were

⁵⁰ Assessment of the landscape of agroecology and the ecological organic agriculture initiative in Africa study report, 2023

critical steps in ensuring that organic agriculture is integrated into Africa's agricultural development framework. This has not only enhanced visibility and impact of EOA-I but also supported the broader goals of sustainable agricultural development and food security in the continent.

- **Agenda 2063 -The Africa We Want:** The AU's long-term vision for Africa, Agenda 2063, calls for an agricultural sector that is modern, efficient, and environmentally sustainable. EOA-I has contributed to this aspiration by advocating for organic farming systems that reduce reliance on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides while improving soil health and biodiversity. The Nairobi Declaration on Soil Health (2023) was a significant outcome of the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya. This declaration emphasizes the importance of sustainable soil management practices to address the widespread soil degradation across the continent.
- **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA):** AfCFTA aims to create a single market for goods and services across Africa, presenting an opportunity for organic producers to access regional markets. However, the absence of harmonized organic certification standards remains a challenge. EOA-I has worked to support policy harmonization and capacity-building efforts to ensure that African organic products meet regional and global market standards.
- **African Organization for Standardization (ARSO):** ARSO plays a crucial role in enhancing trade by developing and harmonizing organic agriculture standards across the continent. ARSO works to ensure consistency in certification, labeling, and quality assurance of organic products, facilitating regional and international market access for African organic producers. By aligning national standards with regional and international frameworks, ARSO helps create a unified regulatory environment that supports the growth of the organic sector. ARSO also promotes capacity building by providing technical guidance and training to stakeholders on compliance with organic certification requirements.

4.5 Review of EOA-I Pillars

EOA-I was structured around six key pillars, which served as the foundation for promoting and mainstreaming organic agriculture in Africa. These pillars provide a comprehensive framework for promoting ecological organic agriculture in Africa. The pillars elaborated the theory of change, which served as a roadmap detailing how specific activities were to achieve specific outcomes and long-term impacts of the initiative.

4.5.1 Research, Training, and Extension

The Research, Training, and Extension pillar focused on increasing scientific and indigenous knowledge, technologies and innovations in EOA through holistic, demand-driven, multidisciplinary, gender-sensitive, and participatory research, training, and extension. The implementation was led by actors in research and training institutes and universities, conducting participatory, interdisciplinary and multicultural research to inform stakeholder training. By involving farmers in the research, existing indigenous knowledge was harnessed and scientifically tested to produce empirical data for validation and further innovation. The pillar ensured that gender aspects were considered in every technology and innovation,

farming technologies and practices incorporated the active participation of women and marginalized groups, including youth. In this regard, there have been significant achievements in integrating EOA into formal learning institutions which are now able to train and carry out research in ecological organic agriculture.

During the strategic period, 9 EOA training curricula were developed and reviewed for integration into the national formal education programs. 18 tertiary institutions are currently implementing EOA training programs. These universities not only introduced undergraduate and postgraduate programs focused on EOA but also engaged in research projects that addressed local agricultural challenges.

Activities undertaken by partners in the development of practices and technologies involved comprehensive value chain analysis to identify knowledge gaps, needs and priorities of various actors with a special focus on women, youth, and marginalized groups along selected value chains, researching to generate information and knowledge to address the identified gaps, needs, and priorities, assembling information and knowledge from various sources to address the identified knowledge gaps, needs and priorities^{51,52}. The findings from this research highlighted the benefits of EOA practices, including improved soil health using cover crops and compost, increased biodiversity via intercropping, enhanced food security through diversified production, and reduced environmental impact by minimizing the use of harmful pesticides. The robust research not only supported development of sustainable organic practices but also informed policy making and agricultural strategies across the 9 countries, ensuring that the approaches are tailored to local conditions and needs.

The success of these collaborations is evident in the increased number of graduates equipped with knowledge and skills in organic farming, who are now contributing to the implementation of EOA practices in their communities. Further, research is documenting the best EOA practices and packaging of information and knowledge for reference and learnings to guide the scaling and implementation of similar initiatives in the future. Table 8 below presents an overview of the programmes in the respective institutions.

Table 8: List of learning institutions and EOA programmes mainstreamed into curriculum.

Country	Learning institutions	Programme
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ University of Abomey Calavi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research on Organic Fertilizers and selling to farmers. ▪ Research on organic livestock ▪ Integrated production pest management (IPPM) courses.
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mekele University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organic Agriculture course units within the Degree programs, and master's Program for students carrying out research on Organic agriculture related studies.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Egerton University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organic Agriculture course units within the undergraduate degree programs, and master's

⁵¹ <http://eoai-africa.org/research/>

⁵² <https://eoai-africa.org/eoa-i-success-stories-for-phases-i-ii-phase-ii/>

		students carrying out research on Organic agriculture related studies.
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ L'Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organic Agriculture course units within the undergraduate degree programs
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NUC, NBTE, and NRCN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of curriculum to include organic agriculture. ▪ PhD students have been facilitated to carry out research on Indigenous knowledge and Organic Agriculture characterization amongst farmers in Nigeria.
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Makerere University ▪ Martyrs University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research on organic Agriculture by PhD. and master's students. Undergraduates are exposed to organic Agriculture through course units
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ University of Dakar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conceptualization of Organic Agriculture degree (Bachelors, master's & PhD students have graduated) ▪ Research around EOA
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dar es Salaam University ▪ Sokoine University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organic Agriculture Research programs at PhD and master's levels

Collaboration was also established with research institutions such as the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL). In Kenya, under the Long-term System Comparison (SysCom) Phase III project, (2015-2018) research was conducted to compare conventional and organic treatments on crop rotation with maize, beans, vegetables, and potatoes over 3-year, 6-seasons⁵³. This provided scientific evidence on the performance and potential of these systems, with a focus on sustainability, productivity, and socio-economic factors⁵⁴. It was evident that EOA farming methods can match the yields of conventional farming and that Organic farming often involves higher labor costs, but the costs of external inputs (like synthetic fertilizers and pesticides) are lower compared to conventional farming. Over time, EOA practices can reduce labor and production costs. Phase V of the collaborative project is under implementation from 2023 to 2026⁵⁵.

In Tanzania, through collaborative efforts with Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), validation studies were conducted in the department of Crop Science and Horticulture of the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). This focused on seed treatment using botanical extracts in biological control of bacterial black spot disease in solanaceous crops, soil fertility management using rock phosphate (Minjingu nafaka) fertilizer and poultry/cattle manures to improve soil fertility and mulching using organic mulches (rice husks and dry grasses) in soil conservation. The research established that the use of botanicals as seed treatment helps in

⁵³ <https://systems-comparison.fibl.org/index.html>

⁵⁴ <https://www.biovision.ch/en/project/long-term-study-of-cultivation-systems-in-the-tropics-syscom/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.biovision.ch/en/project/long-term-study-of-cultivation-systems-in-the-tropics-syscom/>

inhibiting seed-borne pathogens which cause seed deterioration. While a combination of fertilizers and mulching materials was observed to be the best option in promoting crops growth⁵⁶. Under the same collaboration, research was also conducted on the use of traps in controlling sucking and chewing pests in tomatoes and okra⁵⁷.

In Rwanda, the University of Technology and Arts of Byumba (UTAB) through collaborative research with EOA-I, developed four technologies along the strawberry and pineapple value chains i.e. intercropping pineapple with *Desmodium Intortum* and sweet potatoes for sustainable mulching in organic highland pineapple production; exploring the effectiveness of pest-repellent crops on pest management in strawberry farming; homemade organic fertilizers on pineapple production; and homemade organic fertilizers on strawberry production. The research found that pathogens and pests cause yield losses and negatively affect the quality of produce, leading to complaints from farmers. To address these issues and support the integration of homemade technologies, the university has developed two technologies for organic fertilizers and organic pesticides capable of fighting against potential pests such as cyclamen mites, aphids, whiteflies, spittlebugs, flower thrips, chili thrips, armyworms, and related Noctuid caterpillars. Strawberry diseases, such as leaf spots, grey mould, red stele, powdery mildew, *Alternaria* spot, black root rot, and black spot, were also identified⁵⁸. These collaborations in research helped validate indigenous practices and integrate them with modern scientific approaches, leading to the development of effective EOA technologies and innovations in different countries.

Partnerships under pillar 1 have increased EOA technologies and practices validated. In the strategic period, the target in phase 2 of the initiative was to generate at least 36 types of EOA research information and knowledge along various value chains and to avail them to Pillar 2 actors for implementation across the nine countries. As of 2023, a total of 81 EOA research information and knowledge products were generated, and 52 were validated and passed on to Pillar 2 for dissemination. Some of the information and knowledge products include the use of pre-formulated organic fertilizers for chia production in Kenya, soil erosion control and botanical extraction for pest and disease control in Tanzania, seed preservation using cow dung in Uganda, the use of vermi-compost in Ethiopia, and the use of insect repellents or trap plants on certain pests in vegetable production in Benin.

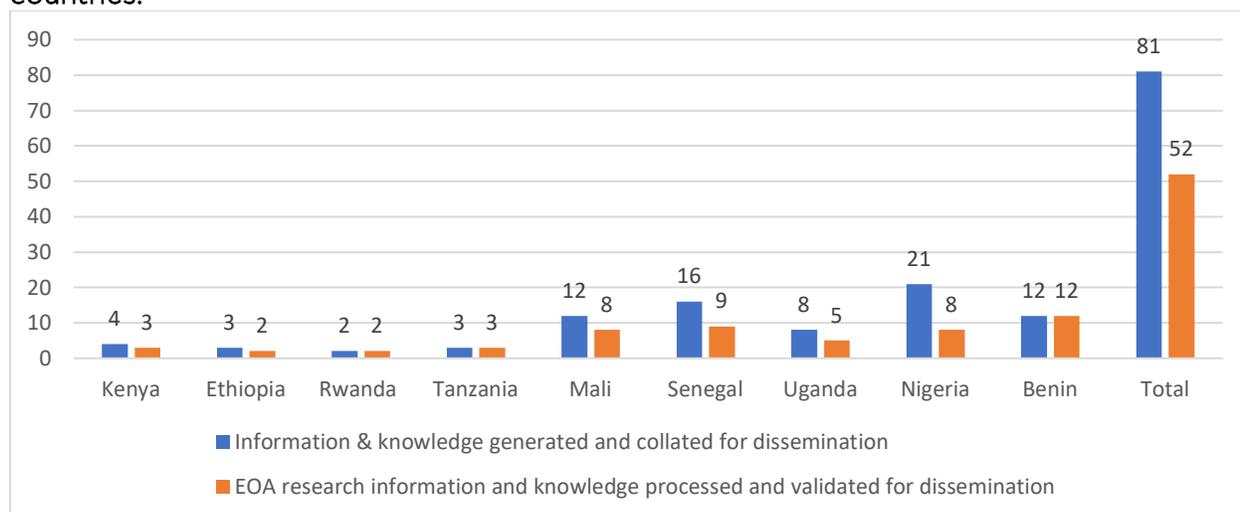
Overall performance in the generation of EOA information and knowledge was 225%, and 144%, respectively. Performance was exemplary for Mali, Senegal, Uganda, Nigeria, and Benin while Kenya and Tanzania performed moderately. The low performance in Ethiopia could partly be attributed to bringing on board a new pillar partner named Wollo University after the Northern crisis locked out Mekelle University from implementation while Rwanda's low performance was due to the late kick-off in the implementation of the project in 2020 when other partners had already started in 2019. Performance across countries is illustrated in Figure 4 below.

⁵⁶ <https://eoai-africa.org/validation-of-researched-ecological-organic-agriculture-technologies/>

⁵⁷ <https://eoai-africa.org/report-on-the-use-of-traps-in-controlling-sucking-and-chewing-pests-in-tomatoes-and-okra/>

⁵⁸ <https://eoai-africa.org/ea-initiative-success-stories-pillar-i/>

Figure 4: Number of EOA information and knowledge generated and validated across countries.



Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

The research outcomes were disseminated and implemented through relevant extension activities that provided knowledge and skills to value chain actors, scaling the application of information, practices, and technologies. This was through various methods, including field experiments, demonstrations, workshops, and expert opinions. Dissemination reached out to over 3,227,819 farmers: significantly surpassing the initial target of 1.5 million. However, some of the generated technologies and practices still await validation.

The project has made great progress in ensuring that the adoption of EOA practices by farmers. The interventions under pillar I have contributed to increased proportion of agricultural land under EOA. The project targeted a 10% increase in the proportion of agricultural land under EOA production by the end of phase II. From the analysis, it was observed that by 2023, there was a 37% increase (overall) in the proportion of agricultural land under EOA production. This is an indication that farmers have begun to embrace EOA based on the knowledge, innovations, and technologies developed through research projects. Some of the practices adopted included green manuring, making biochar, use of anthill mound soil, drip irrigation, and bio fertilizer⁵⁹. Table 9 below illustrates the portion of land under EOA per country and year.

⁵⁹ EOA-I-annual-report-for-2022

Table 9: Proportion of land under organic agriculture production in EOA-I implementing countries.

Country	Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production in 2019	Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production in 2020	Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production in 2021	Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production in 2022	Proportion of agricultural land under EOA production in 2023	% Increase in 2020	% Increase in 2021	% Increase in 2022	% Increase in 2023
Benin	51%	71%	92%	92%	93%	20%	40%	41%	41%
Ethiopia	20%	23%	24%	25%	60%	3%	4%	5%	40%
Kenya	31%	31%	34%	35%	36%	0%	3%	4%	5%
Mali	32%	34%	34%	34%	37%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Nigeria	67%	67%	68%	74%	74%	0%	1%	7%	7%
Rwanda		72%	94%	94%	96%		22%	22%	24%
Senegal	65%	75%	70%			11%	5%	5%	5%
Tanzania	62%	64%	64%	65%	65%	1%	1%	2%	3%
Uganda	79%	80%	81%	81%	81%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Grand Total	50%	56%	61%	86%	87%	6%	11%	36%	37%

Source: EOA-I-2019—2023 outcome results

Similarly, the volumes of EOA crop production averagely increased by 26%. This is illustrated on table 10 below.

Table 10: Total volume (Kgs) for EOA value chain product (between 2019 & 2023)

Country	Average of 2019 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product	Average of 2020 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product	Average of 2021 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product	Average of 2022 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product	Average of 2023 Total volumes/quantities (in kgs) for EOA value chain product	% Increase in 2020	% Increase in 2021	% Increase in 2022	% Increase in 2023
Benin	2487.58	2487.23	2610.13	2636.30	2701.44	0%	5%	6%	9%
Ethiopia	251.67	396.53	396.76	414.03	439.35	58%	58%	65%	75%
Kenya	182.33	190.64	209.28	233.74	269.71	5%	15%	28%	48%
Mali	1123.62	1231.79	1358.43	1401.32	1452.69	10%	21%	25%	29%
Nigeria	2503.89	3038.97	3466.93	3544.08	3559.48	21%	38%	42%	42%
Rwanda		2638.33	2620.37	2797.80	2812.49		-1%	6%	7%
Senegal	862.50	884.51	904.23	904.23	904.23	3%	5%	5%	5%
Tanzania	692.15	702.40	728.21	762.98	763.01	1%	5%	10%	10%
Uganda	272.60	305.13	392.15	280.00	288.68	12%	44%	3%	6%
Grand Total	1173.89	1688.57	1770.80	1598.64	1627.32	44%	51%	36%	39%

Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

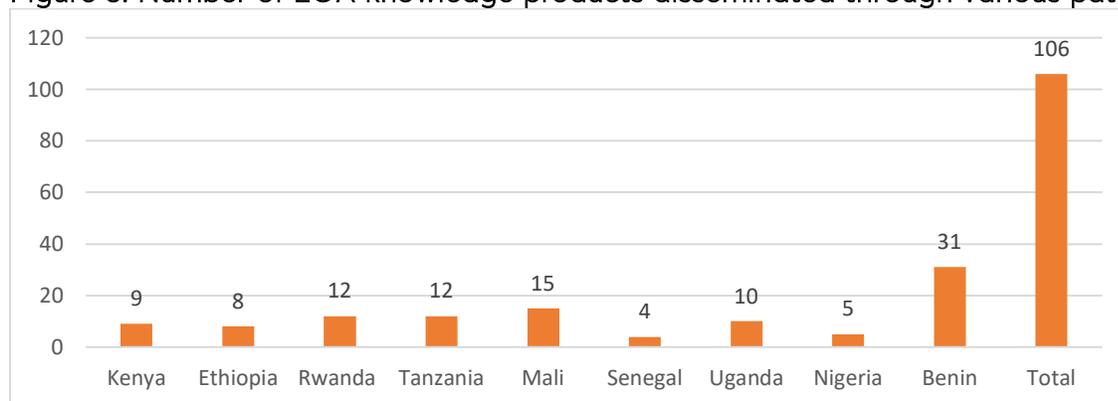
4.5.2 Information and Communication

The strategic objective under this pillar was to collate, package, and disseminate research findings and other relevant information to various stakeholders using various approaches and channels of communication. A range of information products were designed and disseminated through different channels to enhance understanding and adoption of EOA practices. These products included brochures, training manuals, and multimedia resources that were specifically tailored to meet the needs of different audiences. The impact of information and communication efforts is evident in the increased awareness and understanding of EOA practices among stakeholders.

Phase 1 evaluation of the initiative assessed achievement between 2014-2018 among beneficiaries of EOA-I under each pillar across 8 countries⁶⁰. A total of 462 farmers were sampled. Under pillar 2, the evaluation sought to establish whether producers' knowledge and attitude towards ecological organic farming had changed because of access to new information. Results indicated a significant improvement in knowledge and attitudes towards organic agriculture, which in turn contributed to the adoption of EOA practices among farmers⁶¹.

In Phase II of EOA-I implementation, a total of 106 EOA knowledge products were developed across the 9 countries and were disseminated through various pathways including radio talk shows, YouTube, newsletters, websites, booklets and manuals, documentaries, social media, posters, flyers, and podcasts⁶². The wide range of channels has ensured effective information and communication which has enhanced the visibility and understanding of EOA practices by a wider range of audiences and fostered a supportive environment for the scale-up and mainstreaming of EOA across the continent. Figure 5 below illustrates the number of EOA knowledge products disseminated through various pathways.

Figure 5: Number of EOA knowledge products disseminated through various pathways.



Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

Dissemination of information through various channels ensured that the EOA message reached a wide audience, ultimately leading to a more informed and engaged community and actors. Up to 2023, a total of 3,426,306 farmers were reached with EOA information and knowledge through various pathways. At the country level, Benin stood out for the highest number of EOA knowledge products disseminated which reflect the efforts in pillar one in knowledge products generation and validation. Despite not having a high number of knowledge products disseminated, Tanzania and Rwanda achieved the highest number of farmers reached with EOA information and knowledge. In Rwanda, this was partly attributable to digitalization of content through initiatives such as the "Scaling-up Digital Training Materials for Smallholder Farmers in East Africa." The project made use of already available training resources such as the African Organic Manual produced by FiBL & IFOAM and the Infonet-Biovision, which are tailored to small-scale African farmers⁶³. The information was transformed into free to access

⁶⁰ Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda

⁶¹ Evaluation of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Africa (2014-2018)

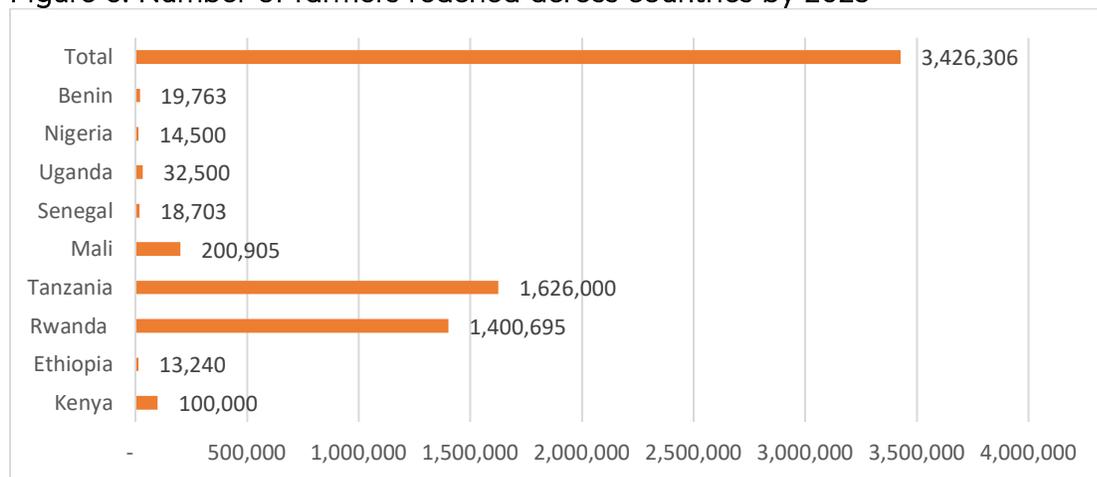
⁶² <https://kcoa-africa.org/kcoa-knowledge-database/>

⁶³ <https://www.fibl.org/en/themes/projectdatabase/projectitem/project/>

text messages and tablet-based training translated into Kinyarwanda language making the knowledge more accessible for farmers⁶⁴.

In Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania, dissemination of EOA knowledge and information has been accelerated by the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project’s social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube as well as the traditional media (radio, television, and newspapers), farmers caravan, market days, school debates on agroecology, agricultural shows and exhibitions, among other initiatives, have all been innovative activities and engagements that all together reached over 15 million people between 2019 and 2022⁶⁵. Similarly, the digitalization project supported by BvAT under the Farmer Communication Program (FCP) and implemented in partnership with FiBL with funding from Bachmann Foundation to increase access to knowledge on organic farming by smallholder farmers through digitalization and dissemination of materials from trustworthy and reputable platforms and building on the KCOA project to make such knowledge resources available to farmers and multipliers for wider application in East Africa and beyond⁶⁶. Figure 6 below illustrates the number of farmers reached through different channels across countries.

Figure 6: Number of farmers reached across countries by 2023



Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

In ensuring a sustainable partner-led process in EOA information dissemination beyond the tenure of the project, EOA-I partners trained key stakeholders, including 1,106 Training of Team of Facilitators (ToToFs) who included extension officers/rural service providers and 14,158 value chain actors (input suppliers, processors, and transporters) on benefits and application of various EOA practices and standards. This approach allowed cascading knowledge to a larger number of beneficiaries, effectively multiplying the reach of the training efforts. The number of ToToFs reached is illustrated in table 11 below.

⁶⁴ <https://roam.org.rw/>

⁶⁵ The KCOA-knowledge hub for Eastern Africa phase 1 story

⁶⁶ BvAT-2022-Annual-Report

Table 11: Number of stakeholders trained on EOA practices and standards per year.

Actors	Kenya	Ethiopia	Rwanda	Tanzania	Mali	Senegal	Uganda	Nigeria	Benin	Total
Extension officers/rural service providers trained	114	213	160	46	46	37	99	167	224	1,106

Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

4.5.3 Value Chain and Market Development

The strategic objective under this pillar was to increase the share of quality EOA products at national, regional, and international markets through value chain mapping, analysis, identification of high value chains and market development by 2025. A notable achievement in this pillar was the mapping and analysis of specific value chains in project countries. The following value chains in table 12 below were identified for each of the implementing countries:

Table 12: Target value chains in project countries

Country	Value chain
Nigeria	Vegetable, fruit, and spices
Benin	Soybeans, Tomatoes, Bananas
Mali	Sesame
Senegal	Onion, mango
Tanzania	Fruits and vegetables
Uganda	Pineapple, Tomatoes
Ethiopia	Potatoes
Kenya	Tomatoes
Rwanda	Strawberry & pineapple

Market research was conducted and strategies developed to improve identified gaps along the value chains. Implementation involved collaboration with farmers, research institutions, government agencies, processors, input suppliers, traders, and consumers to identify key market opportunities for EOA products and develop strategies for improving product quality and market competitiveness in both local, national and regional markets.

Implementation of the pillar was through collaboration with Business Development Service (BDS) providers. A total of 466 BDS suppliers were engaged across various value chains, providing 58 different types of business development services (BDS) in 9 countries. These services included internal audits, access to credit, enterprise development, market linkages, transportation and delivery, mentoring, training, and technical assistance, PGS compliance training, EOA standards compliance, and access to EOA inputs, among others. In total 40,712 value chain actors (farmers, processors, transporters, and traders) benefitted from these services.

Table 13: Number of value chain actors linked to a range of business development services.

Outcome Indicator	Kenya	Ethiopia	Rwanda	Tanzania	Mali	Senegal	Uganda	Nigeria	Benin	Total
Types of BDS accessed by the various value chain actors	5	5	9	6	7	4	5	11	6	58
Value chain actors linked BDS	2525	2206	7984	1229	11282	8084	1821	578	5003	40712
Number of BDS suppliers	12	32	37	25	64	100	36	71	89	466

Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

Towards increasing the market competitiveness of EOA value chain actors at domestic, national, and international markets, various activities were carried out including dissemination of market intelligence information, organic market product certification, and establishment and certification of PGS groups. Table 14 below elaborates the numbers.

Table 14: Number of market intelligence information availed to organic farmers, number of farmers participating in markets, number of farmers meeting market standards and PSGs fully established and certified.

Outcome indicator	Kenya	Ethiopia	Rwanda	Tanzania	Mali	Senegal	Uganda	Nigeria	Benin	Total
Types of market intelligence information availed to organic farmers per country.	8	9	9	8	13	29	12	6	5	99
Farmers participating in the markets at different levels (domestic and exports)	2510	971	5619	1599	4060	2019	901	913	3685	22277
Farmers meeting the organic market standards	200	35	4625	23361	36298	1074	156	230	4088	70067
PGS groups established and fully certified	1	1	0	2	4	2	2	9	5	26

Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

On the demand side, by promoting the consumption of ecological and organic products, the initiative aimed to create sustainable market demand and increase the income of smallholder farmers. A total of 46 new market channels were established and 54 existing market channels strengthened. This brought about progress in the number of value-added products and people consuming organic products owing to increased awareness. Table 15 below illustrates the numbers.

Table 15: Number of new market channels established and strengthened, value-added organic products and people consuming organic products.

	Kenya	Ethiopia	Rwanda	Tanzania	Mali	Senegal	Uganda	Nigeria	Benin	Total
New market channels developed and accessed by value chain actors.	7	5	5	3	8	4	2	7	5	46
Existing market channels strengthened.	9	5	11	2	9	2	3	7	6	54
Products that have undergone value addition.	2	3	3	0	9	3	3	8	5	36
Number of people consuming organic products	0	752	100	7188	9619	616	2220	1085	11040	32620

Source: EOA – I Overall results (2019 – 2023)

4.5.4 Networking and Partnerships

This objective aimed to foster and strengthen synergies among stakeholders in Africa through building networks and partnerships by 2025. In this regard, the initiative has been a success based on the strength of the networks and partnerships established by the secretariat of its Continental Steering Committee (CSC). There has been great collaboration between the different governments, donors, Regional Economic Communities as well as actors in the different EOA-I value chains across countries. In total, the initiative has established 30 partnerships⁶⁷ across the 9 EOA project countries in addition to other partnerships across the region (outside the 9 EOA project countries). The partnerships have centered around public institutions, research, knowledge management, markets, trade, and policy.

The existing MoU between AU and BvAT has provided a good framework for establishment of partnerships with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) specifically the ECOWAS and EAC in promoting EOA in the respective regions through the regional secretariat which have led to the development of EOA in these regions. The EOA-I continental team has during this Strategic period held engagements with the SADC Secretariat, the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) as well as the Economic Community of Central Africa States (ECCAS) to discuss areas of

⁶⁷ In the context of the EOA-I project, refer to collaborative relationships formed between various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), research institutions, private sector actors, and farmer organizations, to achieve common goals in promoting Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA).

partnership and working modalities of EOA-I in Southern Africa, Northern Africa and the Central African regions.

The EOA-I has also expanded its partnerships with continental research institutions such as Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) who are now recognizing and incorporating EOA in their scientific research.

The interests of donors and funders for EOA have grown over time. Initially, technical support and funding was mainly from the AUC, SDC, SIDA, and SNCC but over time, some donors such as BMZ, GIZ, and the EU have come on board. Partnerships on resource mobilization have been established leading to the development and incorporation of EOA in several projects implemented and managed by BvAT. Some of these projects are the GIZ-funded KCOA/KHEA, Agroecology for Increased Nutrition and Food Security in Eastern Africa (ANFEA Project). The enhancing food and nutrition, market linkages and resilient livelihoods for smallholder farmers through agroecology in Kitui and Nakuru counties of Kenya with a special focus on women and youth (LDF Project), the BoPInc O-Farms project in Kenya and Uganda, the SDC funded Agroecology Promotion Project (APP), and the GIZ funded Alliance for products Quality in Africa project. To promote standardization and ultimately trade of EOA products, the initiative has initiated a partnership with Africa Standardization Organization (ARSO) to facilitate trade through the AfCFTA framework by standardization of EOA products.

At the continental level, the Continental Steering Committee, chaired by the African Union Commission (AUC), provides oversight and guidance. The committee includes representatives from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), AfrONet, private and civil society sectors, farmers' organizations, seed experts, research networks, organic certification bodies, and development partners. Its role is to guide and oversee the Initiative, aiming to integrate EOA into the AUDA-NEPAD programmes and the CAADP framework.

At the regional level, the project is coordinated by Regional Platforms steered by Regional Steering Committees (RSC) and their secretariats to facilitate the sharing of country experiences and integrating EOA in regional policies and plans which are then cascaded to the different countries. The Western Africa secretariat has been active and is currently chaired by the ECOWAS with NOAN being the secretariat while the Eastern Africa steering committee is chaired by the EAC.

During the current review period, 16 EOA regional platforms were organized by the secretariat across EAC and ECOWAS regions to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, best practices, experiences, and opportunities. These meetings were attended by an average of 14 different types of stakeholders drawn from the private sector, RECs, government, civil society, and farmer organizations. The breakdown of the platforms organized between 2019 and 2021 is given in table 16 below:

Table 16: Break down of regional platforms organized between 2019 and 2021.

Year	West Africa	East Africa	Participating stakeholders
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Regional Steering Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Regional Steering Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REC • Policy Institutions • Civil Society Organizations including NGOs/INGOs • Development Partners, including indirect partners working on EOA related matters. • Organic consumer organizations • Certification and regulatory agencies • Private sector (input suppliers, finance institutions, processors, and marketers) • Government Ministries • Farmer Organizations/Associations • Research and Education institutions. • Advocacy/Communication officers/Journalist • Health Workers operating in EOA. • Security officers working in EOA related. • Transportation companies
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Regional Steering Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Regional Steering Committee 	
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Regional Steering Committee • 1 Regional Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Regional Steering Committee • 1 Regional Assembly 	

However, during the same period, there was limited progress on the number of formal partnership frameworks established and the number of EOA regional policies/plans/strategies approved or EOA-related aspects integrated into regional policy frameworks.

At the national level, there has been increased synergies and cooperation with different Country Lead Organizations implementing various pillars of the project as indicated below.⁶⁸Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) are selected by the National Platforms and work closely with Centers' of Excellence (EOA technical Pillars and their partners at the country level) that provide technical expertise, in the three fields of a) Research and Applied Knowledge; b) Information, Communication and Extension; and c) Value Chain and Market Development. Synergies have also been realized in similar projects able to leverage on resources, make use of compatible skills and abilities, enhance coordination, and expand value propositions to beneficiaries.

4.5.5 Policy and Programme Development

The EOA Initiative has made notable achievements in mainstreaming EOA into national policies, programs, and plans. There has been an increase in the number of policies, plans, and programs promoting EOA over the years. The policies and plans are aimed at mainstreaming EOA into national agricultural frameworks, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing market access for organic products. They also focus on providing guidelines for organic farming, protecting consumer health, safeguarding the environment, and facilitating fair trade practices.

⁶⁸ https://orgprints.org/id/eprint/52797/1/arbenez-et-al-2022-EOA-I-support-phase-2-Eval-report-FiBL_Abacus65233.pdf

During the current review period, the CLOs supported by the PIPs organized 71 national EOA platform meetings to share lessons learned, best practices, and experiences. The meetings were attended by 4 different types of stakeholders. Overall, 17 formal partnership frameworks at national levels were signed by the stakeholders involved. To mainstream EOA practices into national policy frameworks, the initiative conducted lobbying and advocacy activities comprised of workshops and meetings. This resulted in 18 EOA-related aspects being integrated into national policy frameworks, 14 of which have been implemented through programs at the national level. Table 17 below highlights some of the EOA policies at the country level.

Table 17: Country EOA specific policies, plans and strategies.

Country	Policy/Plan/Strategy
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proclamation to establish an organic agriculture system (Proclamation No. 488/2006) • Roadmap for the full and effective implementation of the ecological organic agriculture policy instruments issued by the Government of Ethiopia
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic agriculture policy 2017 (5th Draft) • National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda organic agriculture policy approved by Parliament. • National Fertilizer Policy (NFP) 2016 • National Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan 2015/16-2019/20.
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening Island Initiative plan • Tanzania Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP II) • Organic Policy Action Paper (OPAP)
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Ecological and Organic Production of Benin • Innovation for Sustainable Agricultural Growth (2017) • Law NO 2022 – 14 of July 19, 2022, on Agricultural Orientation, Food and Nutritional Security in the Republic of Benin • Strategic Plan for the Development of the Agricultural Sector Orientation 2025 and National Agricultural Investment Plan 2017 – 2025
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic Agriculture Act of 2017 • National Organic Agricultural Programme, National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), Accreditation of Organic Certifying Body, and The National Centre for Organic Agriculture Quality Control
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Agricultural Investment Program for Food Security and Nutrition (PNIASAN), - awaiting validation, was adopted as a policy in 2018. • National Agricultural Investment Program for Food Security and Nutrition (awaiting validation)
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbying plea for the issuance of the implementing order of Decree No. 09-314 PRM of 19 June 2009 of agricultural products AE and AEB • Organic Input Subsidy
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Agriculture Policy (NAP), 2018 • The Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA) IV (2018- 2024) • National Environment and Climate Change Policy, 2018: • The National Fertilizer Policy, 2014:

- Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy, 2011
- The Crop Intensification Program (CIP), 2007
- Horticulture Strategy for Rwanda, 2006

At the continental level, the EOA-I has made significant strides in policy advocacy, strategic partnerships, and programmatic interventions. The initiative has worked on introducing EOA-I indicators into the CAADP framework and its Biennial Review (BR) Reporting process, aiming to integrate EOA practices into broader agricultural policies at the continental level. A significant milestone was achieved during the 3rd Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural development, Water and Environment meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (21-25 October 2019) when BvAT was formally endorsed as the official host to the Secretariat of the EOA-I and the African Union Commission (AUC), AUDA-NEPAD and partners requested to strengthen and support its functioning. The endorsement gave BvAT the official responsibility to support the Secretariat which is the AUC official support agency in the implementation of the AU decision on Organic Agriculture in Africa as per the African Heads of States and Governments decision passed at its Eighteenth Ordinary Session in January 2011 on Organic Farming (OA) (EX.CL/631 (XVIII)). The STC also urged Member States to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into their National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and allocate adequate resources for its growth and development⁶⁹.

The initiative continues to collaborate with the AU through involvement in strategic meetings and the development of regional EOA-I policies and legislation. Additionally, the initiative has supported the participation of key government officials in events like the BIOFACH Trade Fair and the West Africa Organic Conference⁷⁰.

At the regional level, EOA-I has achieved several significant accomplishments aimed at creating a framework for mainstreaming EOA policies, plans, and programs at different levels. These include integration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs). BvAT hosts the EOA-I Continental Secretariat, which is responsible for coordinating and implementing the EOA strategy across Africa. This includes working closely with RECs to integrate EOA principles into regional and national policies. The RECs have been integrated into the governance of EOA-I to support the development of EOA in their regions. The West Africa Secretariat, led by ECOWAS, received political goodwill and support from ECOWAS, providing leadership to the Regional Steering Committee (RSC). Collaborative meetings were held with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and ECOWAS to improve cooperation on ecological agriculture projects. This included discussions on critical issues related to organic and ecological agriculture and updates on EOA project implementation in various West African countries. The Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) officially joined the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) membership in 2020.⁷¹

⁶⁹ [African Union Ministers Formally Endorse BIOVISION Africa Trust as the host of secretariat of its ecological organics agriculture initiative | IFOAM](#)

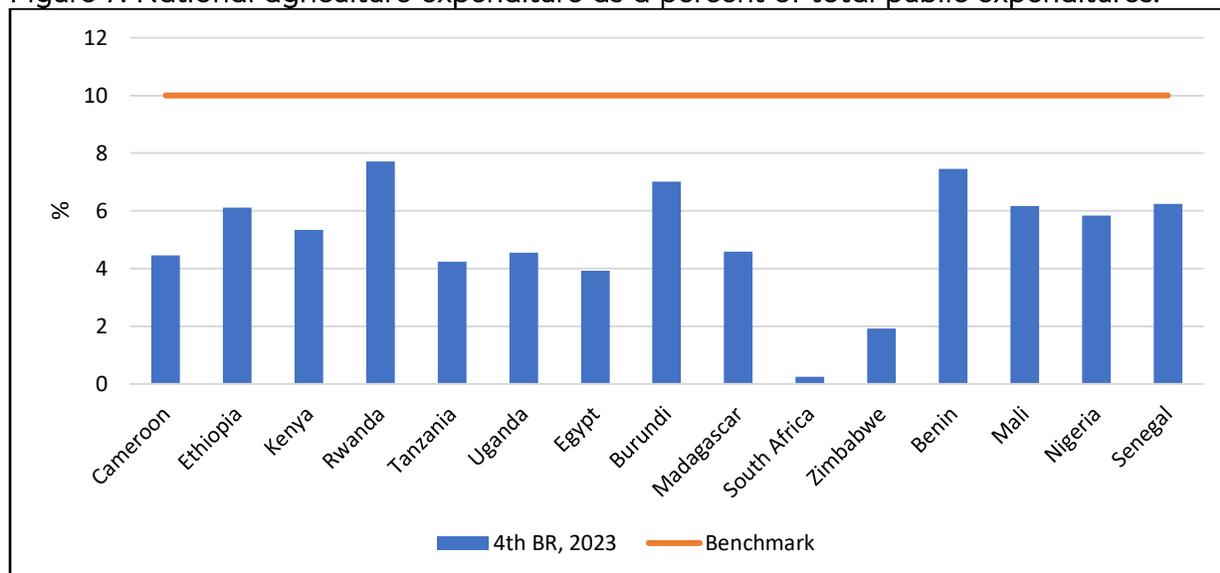
⁷⁰ <https://biovisionafricatrust.org/giz-knowledge-centre-for-organic-agriculture-in-africa-newsletter-issue-no-10-april-2024/>

⁷¹ <https://biovisionafricatrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/BvAT-Annual-Report-2021-web.pdf>

At the national level, some countries have made substantive strides towards drawing EOA to the attention of policymakers through supporting the formulation of policy drafts at various approvals. In line with the mainstreaming of EOA into National Policies, Strategies and Programs, CLOs coordinated lobbying and advocacy undertaken through a guided strategy, workshops, meetings, champions, and friendly steering committees of legislation. There has been consistent progress in the number of EOA practices or elements implemented in the national policy frameworks. In addition, several policies are under development in EOA countries.

The 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report provides insights into the commitment of the African Union Member States to allocate at least 10% of public spending on agriculture, as per the Malabo Declaration. The extent of re-commitment to allocate at least 10% of public spending on agriculture varies across the countries. The report underlined that the African “continent is still not on track to meet the CAADAP/Malabo Commitment by 2025”. Out of the 55 African Union Member States that reported, no African Union (AU) Member State had achieved the target of allocating at least 10% of their national budget to agriculture.

Figure 7: National agriculture expenditure as a percent of total public expenditures.



Source: 4th CAADP Biennial Review (BR) Report (2015-2023)

4.5.6 Institutional Capacity Building

The EOA-I secretariat has been at the forefront in organizing stakeholders’ platforms to build synergies and improve performance. One hundred and eighty (180) organizations across the 9 EOA countries drawn from Ministries of Agriculture, private sector, civil society, and farmer organizations, attended the national meetings. In addition, at the country level, seven (7) partnership frameworks have been established to support the implementation of EOA at the country level. It is interesting to note that six out of the seven partnership frameworks established are in the East Africa region yet the number of organizations actively participating in the national meetings is relatively low. West Africa has 119 organizations while East Africa has 61 organizations participating in national forums.

At the regional level, the Africa Organic Network (AFRONET) has facilitated partnerships among different actors including farmers' groups, private sector bodies, governments as well as non-government institutions to come together. This has promoted a shared vision in advocacy, training, and the creation of regional policies as well as sharing resources for organic certification. The East Africa Community (EAC) is another example of partnerships between member states, NGOs, the private sector as well as regional institutions. This partnership has led to the development of the East African Organic Standard (EAOPS) which has facilitated cross-border trade in organic products and promoted collaborative efforts in regional capacity building and research. At a country level, collaborative partnerships have been fostered between state and non-state actors, the private sector, farmers, research, and NGOs. This has led to improved policy advocacy, capacity building as well as market access.

The Continental EOA-I secretariat has been building the capacity of Country Lead organizations as well as Pillar Implementing Partners on organizational development and governance. Organizational Capacity Assessments revealed gaps in procurement, human resources, and financial management. More capacity building and mentorship in these areas are needed in the next strategic period to build stronger institutions. Other areas of focus for capacity building of EOA institutions include resource mobilization to build the capacity of the institutions to innovatively generate funds to support EOA and advocacy work for advocating the inclusion of EOA in national agricultural policies.

4.6 Summary of Achievements Over The 2015-2025 Strategic Plan Period

The EOA-I has made significant achievement over the 2015-2025 strategic period, achieving notable progress across the six key pillars: Research, Training, and Extension; Information and Communication; Value Chain and Market Development; Networking and Partnerships; Policy and Program Development; and Institutional Capacity Building. Each pillar was designed to address specific aspects of promoting EOA across project countries, with clear targets set to guide implementation. The table below presents an overview of the targets and achievements across six key pillars.

Pillar	Target	Achievement
Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 EOA training curricula for various institutions developed. 9 tertiary institutions implementing EOA training programs. 36 types (new or existing) of EOA technologies, practices, and others on a range of value chains generated and validated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 EOA curricula developed (89%) 18 tertiary institutions implementing the EOA training programs (200%) 81 new technologies across the EOA countries (225%) 52 technologies validated (144%)

Pillar	Target	Achievement
Pillar 2: Information and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 EOA knowledge products on various relevant topics including e.g. success stories, procedures of applying practice, control method disseminated through various pathways. • 1.5 million farmers reached with EOA information and knowledge. • 1,620 ToToFs (extension officers/rural service providers) trained. • 25,740 value chain actors trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106 EOA knowledge products disseminated through various pathways (294%) • 3,426,306 farmers reached (228%) • 1,106 extension workers trained (68%) • 15,321 value chain actors trained (60%)
Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 different types of business development services (BDS) accessed by farmers. • 72,000 value chain actors linked to a range of business development services (BDS) thereby boosting business. • 500 BDS suppliers engaged. • 8 types of market intelligence availed. • 21,000 farmers participating • 18 PGS groups established and fully certified. • 9 new markets have been established. • 72 existing markets strengthened. • 18 products have undergone value addition. • 20% increase in number of people consuming EOA products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 services accessed from BDS providers (290%) • 40,712 value chain actors linked to BDS providers (57%) • 466 BDS service providers engaged in the program (93%) • 99 market intelligence information availed to organic farmers (1238%) • 70,067 Farmers meeting the organic market standards (334%) • 26 PGS groups established and fully certified (511%) • 46 new markets have been established. • 54 existing markets strengthened (75%) • 36 products have undergone value addition (200%) • 32,620 consuming organic products (non-baseline)
Pillar 4: Networking and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 EOA national platform meetings to share lessons. • 12 different stakeholders participate in the national platforms. • 9 formal partnership frameworks signed by all the institutions involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 national EOA platform meetings to share lessons learned, best practices, and experiences (99%) • 4 different stakeholders participated in the national platforms. (33%) • 8 formal partnership frameworks for the platform were signed by the stakeholders involved. (89%)
Pillar 5: Policy and Program Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 EOA related aspects (by-laws, ordinance, policies, legislation, strategies, plans, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 EOA-related aspects integrated into national policy frameworks. (200%)

Pillar	Target	Achievement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> programmes) integrated into national policy frameworks. At least 9 EOA-related national programs/projects implemented. At least 16 EOA regional platform meetings to share lessons and opportunities were held. 13 different stakeholders (RECs, private sector, civil society, and farmer Organizations) participate in the regional platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 EOA-related national programs implemented (156%) 16 EOA regional platforms organized. (100%) 7 types of stakeholders drawn from the private sector, RECs, government, civil society, and farmer organizations. (54%)
Pillar 6: Institutional Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 partnership framework has been established to support the implementation of EOA at country level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 partnership frameworks have been established to support the implementation of EOA at country level. (700%)

4.7 Summary of Challenges

While EOA-I has made significant achievements over the 2015 - 2025 strategic period in mainstreaming EOA across Africa, the implementation has faced several challenges that have constrained its impact.

Limited geographical coverage: The initiative was primarily implemented in only nine countries - Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, leaving out many African nations, particularly in Central and North Africa. This exclusion has created regional disparities in EOA adoption, with countries outside the initiative's reach missing out on EOA technical support, market linkages, and policy advocacy. As a result, the potential impact of EOA remains constrained. Expanding EOA interventions to more countries is crucial for ensuring a more inclusive and widespread adoption of EOA across the continent.

Funding constraints: The EOA-I primarily relied on donor funding, with minimal direct financial backing from the African Union (AU). While donors such as SDC, SSNC, BMZ/GIZ, and others have played a crucial role, overreliance on external funding created sustainability challenges risking loss of momentum once donor funding ends and making it difficult to scale up activities and ensure long-term impact beyond the project period.

Political-economic barriers: Government contributions to EOA-I varied significantly across project countries. Many countries have not prioritized EOA in their national budgets which hinders the integration of EOA into national agricultural policies. Limited government investment in EOA signals weak political commitment, which further limits institutional capacity and slows the integration of EOA into national agricultural development plans. Sustainable financing mechanisms, including increased government budget allocations and private sector engagement, are necessary to ensure the long-term viability of EOA initiatives.

Complex coordination and implementation mechanisms: The multi-level implementation structure that spans continental, regional, and national levels, with each tier playing a distinct role presents complexity in coordination and implementation. The lack of a centralized coordination mechanism resulted to uneven efforts, inefficiencies, and slow decision-making processes. As a result, achievements have been uneven across countries and regions, with some areas showing strong progress while others lagged behind.

Systemic challenges in agricultural systems: EOA has not received the same level of support as conventional farming. Many African governments continue to favor conventional farming models and as a result, policy decisions tend to sideline EOA, limiting financial incentives and institutional support.

Pillar Implementation challenges: Pillar based approach of implementation of EOA-I faced varied challenges. One major hurdle was inadequate institutional capacity, which limited the ability of research institutions and extension services to effectively develop and disseminate EOA technologies. Many countries lacked well equipped agricultural training institutions, leading to a shortage of skilled personnel who could support farmers in transitioning to EOA.

Weak policy integration hindered the mainstreaming of EOA into national agricultural frameworks, as many governments prioritized conventional agriculture over organic alternatives. The absence of clear policies and harmonized regulatory frameworks made it difficult to institutionalize organic certification standards and secure government funding for EOA programs.

Market access difficulties presented an obstacle for smallholder farmers engaged in organic production. Many struggled to find reliable buyers due to poorly developed value chains and limited business development services that could support branding, certification, and financial literacy. As a result, organic farmers often had to compete in conventional markets, where they faced lower prices and limited incentives.

Disparities in communication and information dissemination slowed adoption in countries with weak knowledge sharing platforms and insufficient outreach efforts. This created an uneven implementation landscape, requiring stronger institutional frameworks, policy advocacy, and improved market linkages to accelerate EOA.

4.8 Key lessons Learned.

The implementation of the EOA-I over the 2015-2025 strategic period presents both successes and challenges encountered offering valuable insights for future planning.

Multi stakeholder engagement: One of the most significant lessons from EOA-I is the critical role of multi-stakeholder engagement in driving the adoption of EOA practices. The initiative successfully brought together governments, research institutions, civil society, and farmers' organizations, creating a collaborative environment that facilitated knowledge sharing and policy advocacy. However, the complexity of coordinating these diverse stakeholders also

revealed the need for more streamlined governance structures to ensure efficient decision making and implementation.

Integration of EOA into National policies: Integrating EOA into national agricultural policies is essential for long-term sustainability. Countries like Uganda and Madagascar, which have developed comprehensive EOA policies, have seen significant progress in adopting organic practices. However, the slow pace of policy development in other countries highlights the need for stronger advocacy and political will to prioritize EOA in national agendas.

Role of research and training: EOA-I underscored the importance of research and training in promoting sustainable agricultural practices. The integration of EOA curricula into universities and the development of new technologies have been instrumental in building the capacity of farmers and extension officers. However, the limited funding for research and the slow adoption of validated technologies in some regions indicate the need for more targeted investments in these areas.

Challenges in market development: While EOA-I made strides in developing value chains and linking farmers to markets, the initiative faced challenges in ensuring the sustainability of market access for organic products. Inadequate market access hindered the economic benefits of EOA for smallholder farmers. This highlights the need for more robust market development strategies, including strengthening regional standards and certification protocols.

Need for sustainable funding: The reliance on donor funding has been a significant challenge for EOA-I, creating sustainability issues and limiting the scale of activities. Attracting funding from diverse sources, including bilateral agencies and private sector investments, offers a future model for funding. In addition, securing more sustainable funding mechanisms, such as government allocations and public-private partnerships, will be crucial for long-term sustainability.

4.9 Opportunities for The Next Strategic Period/Plan

The next strategic period (2025-2035) presents several opportunities to build on the achievements of EOA-I and address the challenges encountered during its implementation. These opportunities can help mainstreaming of EOA and contribute to Africa's agricultural transformation.

Expanding geographical coverage: There is significant potential to extend EOA-I reach to other regions, particularly in Central and North Africa. Leveraging existing regional structures, such as the Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) hubs, can help bridge gaps in EOA engagement and ensure a more inclusive approach.

Strengthening regional partnerships: The next strategic period offers an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) beyond ECOWAS and EAC and other regional bodies. By integrating EOA into regional agenda and leveraging the success of frameworks like the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS), the initiative can promote cross border trade and harmonize organic certification standards across Africa.

Leveraging digital platforms: Use of digital platforms presents a significant opportunity for information and technology dissemination in the next strategic period. Expanding the use of ICT tools, such as mobile applications, social media, and online training modules, can enhance the dissemination of EOA knowledge and practices. Digital platforms can also facilitate market access for smallholder farmers, enabling them to connect with buyers and access real-time market information.

Promoting youth and women in agriculture: Given their demographic strengths and potential to drive innovation, youth and women can play a critical role in promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Strategies to engage these groups, such as providing access to training, credit, and market opportunities, can help ensure the long-term sustainability of EOA initiatives.

Enhancing policy advocacy: there is an opportunity for continued strengthening of policy advocacy efforts at both the national and regional levels. By working closely with policymakers and leveraging the RECs and African Union's (AU) framework, EOA-I can drive the adoption of supportive policies and secure more sustainable funding for EOA.

4.10 Financial Analysis and Appreciation for Value for Money

EOA-I has demonstrated the efficient use of donor funding to achieve its objectives. Ambitious targets were set across the six pillars and varying levels of achievement accomplished. The comparison of achievements versus targets demonstrates that EOA-I delivered strong value for money by exceeding or meeting most of its objectives.

The increasing use of digital platforms presented a cost-effective approach for enhancing the reach and impact of EOA initiatives at a lower cost compared to traditional methods. EOA-I leveraged ICT tools, such as mobile applications, social media, and online training modules, to disseminate EOA knowledge and practices to a wider audience. Through digital platforms, 3,426,306 farmers were reached between 2019 and 2022. This approach significantly reduced the cost of traditional outreach methods, such as printed materials and in-person workshops, while increasing accessibility for farmers in remote areas. By leveraging ICT tools and platforms, EOA-I achieved greater value for money while reaching a wider audience.

CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2026-2035 STRATEGIC PLAN

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 Overall conclusion: Challenges and Prospects

Geographical coverage: EOA-I was instrumental in promoting Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) and Agroecology (AE) in Africa more so in the 9 project countries - Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda as well as influencing organic agriculture development in other countries such as Togo, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where organic movements have emerged due to their influence. While these countries represent different regions of Africa, the overall coverage remains inadequate when considering the continent's 55 nations and diverse agricultural landscapes. Many regions, particularly in Central and North Africa, lack direct EOA-I engagement, limiting the initiative's ability to drive policy change and sector development across the continent. Africa's diverse agricultural landscapes and varying levels of agricultural development require tailored approaches. The current focus on a limited number of countries means that many regions with unique agricultural challenges and opportunities are not benefiting from EOA-I's interventions. Expanding the initiative's reach to underserved regions, particularly in Central and North Africa, can help achieve broader geographical coverage.

Implementation and coordination: The execution was structured across continental, regional, and national levels, each playing a distinct role in implementation and oversight. The AUC played a critical role in establishing high-level policy direction and providing legitimacy for EOA-I. This structure provided a strong top-down policy coherence mechanism aligning AU directives with RECs and national level implementation. The Continental Steering Committee (CSC) provided strategic oversight, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) ensured financial and technical management, while the Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) carried out policy engagement, research, farmer training, and value chain development at the national level. While the multi-level implementation structure was designed to facilitate broad coordination and drive top-down policy coherence, there was the challenge of weak coordination across the levels and among the CLOs and PIPs as well as uneven efforts in engagement and implementation, risking the initiative's overall effectiveness. Improving coordination across continental, regional, and national levels is essential for enhancing the initiative's effectiveness.

Funding and sustainability: The initiative relied on donor funding, with minimal direct AU financial backing. Despite growing donor interest in agroecology and organic farming, funding remains fragmented and uncoordinated, reducing the potential for large-scale impact. This is a major setback to scale up activities beyond the donor-funded period. Recent trends indicate a shift towards diversified funding sources, including bilateral agencies (such as BMZ/GIZ), multilateral institutions (AfDB, World Bank, IFAD), and private sector investments, signaling a growing recognition of agroecology's role in food security, climate resilience, and economic development⁷². However, government contributions remain inconsistent across African

⁷² https://eoai-africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Draft-Report_-LANDSCAPE-ASSESSMENT-FOR-AGROECOLOGY-IN-AFRICA-21.09.2023.pdf

countries, with few states showing stronger support (Benin, Ethiopia, Morocco, and Tunisia). Advocacy for increased AU financial support and lobby member states to allocate a percentage of their agricultural budgets to EOA can contribute to resolving this challenge. Additionally, exploring public-private partnerships (PPPs) and engaging new donors can help diversify funding sources and ensure long-term sustainability.

Alignment with continental frameworks: EOA-I was strategically aligned with the CAADP, particularly in the context of biennial reporting. This alignment was crucial for ensuring that EOA-I's progress and impact are systematically documented and evaluated within the broader framework of Africa's agricultural development goals. EOA-I also advances Agenda 2063's vision for a modern, environmentally sustainable agricultural sector by promoting practices that enhance soil health and biodiversity, as underscored by the Nairobi Declaration on Soil Health (2023). Additionally, the initiative supported the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by advocating for harmonized organic standards to unlock regional trade opportunities, while partnering with the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) to strengthen certification systems and market access.

5.1.2 Pillar Specific Conclusions

The pillars' structure ensured that multiple aspects of EOA are addressed, including research, information dissemination, value chain development and market access, policy and program development and institutional capacity building. This was achieved through the involvement of multiple stakeholders, including research institutions, farmer organizations, civil society, and policymakers. While notable achievements across the six pillars were achieved, the pillars presented a complex and broad approach spreading efforts across too many areas and wide coverage i.e. national (nine countries), regional, and continental levels. This had diverse implications on resources allocation across focus areas and countries to drive meaningful, long-term impact.

Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension

EOA-I successfully advanced research, training, and extension services. Between 2019 and 2021, a total of 3,426,306 farmers were reached with EOA information and knowledge, surpassing the initial target of 1.5 million farmers, representing an achievement rate of 228.4%. Additionally, 1,106 extension officers (ToToFs – Trainers of Trainers of Farmers) were trained, compared to the target of 1,620, achieving 68.3% of the goal. Technologies like fortified organic compost in Kenya, as well as mulching and biochar techniques in Uganda, have been successfully adopted, showcasing the impact of these interventions. Additionally, collaborative initiatives like the KCOA established digital platforms and five regional hubs, enabling the distribution of both scientific and local experiential knowledge to stakeholders across Africa; through different channels, over 15 million people were reached between 2019 and 2022. Learning institutions have also embraced EOA, with seven universities, including Egerton University in Kenya and Mekelle University in Ethiopia, integrating EOA curricula into their programs. This has facilitated undergraduate and graduate (master's, Ph.D.) level training in sustainable agriculture, further strengthening the EOA knowledge base. Dissemination of knowledge through over 108 indigenous knowledge materials and scholarly publications, alongside platforms like the Africa Organic Network (AFRONET), has enabled sharing of both scientific and local expertise.

Despite these successes, challenges remain. Limited institutional capacity, insufficient funding, and slow adoption in some regions, such as Rwanda, have hindered broader implementation. To address these gaps, strategic priorities include scaling EOA training programs to scale-up adoption of validated technologies, expanding EOA integration in universities, and establishing robust data monitoring frameworks to monitor and report on progress. These measures will ensure the continued promotion of EOA, contributing to improved food security and environmental resilience across Africa.

Pillar 2: Information and Communication

EOA-I significantly advanced the dissemination of ecological organic agriculture knowledge and practices. This was achieved through targeted information and communication strategies aimed at stakeholders, including farmers, extension officers, and value chain actors. Training efforts focused on ecological organic practices, market access, and certification processes, equipping participants with essential knowledge to adopt and promote EOA principles- all contributing to raising awareness and increasing adoption rates of EOA practices.

Between 2019 and 2023, a total of 106 EOA-specific materials (including brochures, manuals, and reports) were produced, validated, and disseminated to educate extension officers, value chain actors, and policymakers. In Phase II, 1,106 extension officers and 14,158 value chain actors were trained as facilitators, creating a multiplier effect that extended the reach of EOA knowledge. Digital platforms have been utilized to enhance knowledge dissemination and fostered more dynamic engagement with farmers and value chain actors. Additionally, the Regional Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture amplified outreach through social media and other traditional platforms. Countries like Benin, Tanzania, and Rwanda achieved exceptional results, with Benin leading in knowledge product dissemination and Tanzania and Rwanda excelling in farmer engagement. These gaps suggest a need for tailored interventions to address country-specific barriers and strengthen regional communication networks. There is need for continued scale-up of ICT integration to expand reach and improve efficiency in delivering extension services. Increasing investment in developing and disseminating targeted EOA materials in underperforming regions will help bridge knowledge gaps.

Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development

The successfully strengthened market access and competitiveness for organic products across nine African countries. By mapping high-potential value chains, the initiative facilitated targeted interventions, linking 40,712 value chain actors to 466 BDS providers offering critical support in financing, certification, and market linkages. A key achievement was the establishment of 26 PGS groups, enabling smallholder farmers to access organic certification affordably. Additionally, 46 new market channels were created, and 54 existing ones strengthened, significantly boosting organic product consumption.

The current emerging trends in EOA at the continental, regional, and national levels present an interest from governments and the development sector, opportunity for diversified funding, strengthened knowledge bases, and socio-economic conditions that favor the adoption of organic practices. Development agencies and NGOs are collaborating more with governments to promote EOA initiatives through capacity-building programs, technical assistance, and advocacy for policy reforms. This collaboration is supported by a growing trend of complementary public-private funding models from governments, private sector investments

and grants from international donor organizations, which together enhance the sustainability of EOA programs.

The collaborative efforts between actors from government, NGOs, private sector, and farmer organizations have enhanced resource sharing and knowledge exchange, fostering a collective approach to EOA. Training and capacity building for farmers, extension workers, and value chain actors has also been effective in promoting the adoption of EOA practices highlighting the importance of continuous education and skill development in sustaining engagement and improving agricultural practices.

Increasing awareness of EOA practices among consumers and producers is vital to drive demand and encourage more farmers to adopt EOA practices. These lessons point to the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to future strategic planning in efforts to enhance EOA's contribution to improved food security and environmental sustainability across Africa. Additionally, the involvement of youth in agriculture is a critical demographic trend that is essential for ensuring the sustainability of agricultural practices and addressing labour shortages in the sector. The youth agenda has a potential for more elevation across the EOA countries.

Pillar 4: Networking and Partnerships

The anchoring of the EOA-I at the AU which provides oversight for the integration of EOA into agricultural policies, is a good practice that could be replicated for other programs. This framework has facilitated collaboration among various stakeholders, including Regional Economic Communities (RECs), civil society, and farmers' organizations. At the regional level, some RECs have been integrated into the governance of the EOA-I to support the development of EOA through mainstreaming EOA policies and programs. By creating platforms for dialogue, the initiative has raised awareness for EOA policies and garnered political goodwill and support, which is essential for scaling up EOA initiatives across different regions.

There exists an opportunity for the RECs to work with governments and other stakeholders to advance EOA. The East African Community (EAC), for example, has developed the East Africa Organic Products Standard (EAOPS) which harmonizes trade of EOA products and is the framework upon which the national governments are developing their EOA policies and strategies. The RECs provide an important structure for cascading policy frameworks and trade. Its integration into the governance of EOA-I provides a great platform for the delivery of EOA at the country level through political goodwill from the RECs.

Pillar 5: Policy and Program Development

The EOA-I has made significant strides in supporting countries to integrate ecological organic agriculture into national policies. While there has been progress in mainstreaming EOA into national agricultural frameworks, many countries still lack comprehensive policies supporting organic agriculture. For instance, the EOA-I Secretariat's policy mapping across 54 African countries revealed varied levels of commitment and implementation, with some countries classified as having minimal or no existing policies for EOA.

Some countries have made significant progress in mainstreaming EOA principles into their agricultural development agendas. For instance, Uganda and Madagascar have achieved type 1 status (Countries that have a National Organic Agriculture Movement, a policy and standards, and government is supporting the vibrant sector, farmer organizations and private sector are thriving and there are markets for organic products) with their NOAMS leading and supporting the development of standards, regulations, and mainstreaming relevant government policies, as well as the development of both the domestic and export market for EOA products.

Most African countries are not on track concerning the CAADP commitment of 10% of Countries' national budgetary allocation to agriculture. This calls for more engagement of stakeholders involved in EOA on the importance of the indicators and their role in tracking them. Advocacy with relevant ministries, departments, and agencies will hasten the development of requisite policies, strategies and priorities which will in turn be backed by appropriate budgetary allocation for EOA and agriculture in general. Monitoring CAADP could be enhanced at the country level using ICT and having programs that respond to the different CAADP indicators.

The regions where the EOA Initiative has active projects (Eastern and West Africa) have performed better on EOA indicators than regions without focusing on the EOA Initiative. A more continental approach by the EOA Initiative is more desirable to foster regional balance and facilitate continent-wide data collection. Increased government support for EOA will likely improve many of the institutional barriers that limit EOA policy formulation processes.

Pillar 6: Institutional Capacity Building

At both regional and country levels, the EOA-I secretariat has effectively built synergies and fostered partnerships to support EOA implementation, policy advocacy, capacity building, and market access. These initiatives include the establishment of partnership frameworks and the facilitation of cross-border trade through standards like the East African Organic Product Standard (EAOPS).

Collaborative efforts have been promoted by organizations such as AFRONET and the East African Community (EAC), leading to a unified approach in developing regional policies and resource sharing for organic certification. Despite these efforts, there is a noticeable disparity in regional participation, with West Africa having more organizations involved in national forums compared to East Africa. Specifically, West Africa has 119 organizations actively participating, while East Africa has only 61 organizations involved.

The secretariat has also built the capacity of CLOs and pillar implementing partners by identifying gaps in critical areas such as resource mobilization, human resources, and financial management. This has resulted in stronger institutional support for the implementation of EOA, contributing to improved policy advocacy, enhanced capacity building, and better market access.

5.2 Recommendations for the Next Strategic Plan Period 2025-2035

5.2.1 Overall Recommendations

EOA-I has achieved significant milestones; however, critical areas of improvement are discussed in table 18 below:

Table 18: Overall recommendations

Critical areas of improvement	Recommendation
Alignment with continental frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment of EOA-I next strategic period with the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035) presents an opportunity for EOA-I to build on its current achievements. The Kampala CAADP declaration on building resilient and sustainable agrifood Systems in Africa to increase agricultural productivity, enhance food and nutrition security, promote inclusivity, and ensure resilience should be central to the EOA-I objectives in the next strategic phase. There should be continued alignment of EOA-I objectives with other continental and global frameworks such as SDGs, United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) outcomes, the Kampala Declaration, AfCFTA, Farmer-Managed Seed Systems, and Agenda 2063. This would strengthen EOA strategic positioning, attract broader partnerships, and enhance its policy influence. This will require embedding of relevant goals from frameworks into EOA's strategic objectives and indicators.
Geographical coverage and regional balance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging on the existing regional structures, e.g. KCOA Hub in five regions to reach underserved regions and bridge gaps in Central and North Africa, where EOA-I engagement is minimal. More intentional collaboration with RECs in new regions to integrate EOA into regional agendas, using the ECOWAS and EAC frameworks as success cases. Apply lessons from countries like Uganda and Madagascar (Type 1 EOA countries) to guide policy development in policy-lagging countries.
Diversify funding and enhance sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalize resource mobilization as a core function across in the EOA structure by introducing a resource mobilization pillar to guide alternative innovative financing models. Advocate for the AU to allocate dedicated funding to EOA-I through mechanisms like the CAADP Biennial Review. Lobby member states to increase allocation of agricultural budgets mirroring CAADP recommendation of 10% target; and subsequently part of the agriculture budget to EOA. Advocate for EOA to receive the same level of government support as conventional farming by promoting initiatives such as subsidies for organic inputs. Expand donor base by engaging new donors to complement existing partners (SDC, SSNC, and BMZ/GIZ).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to co-fund value chain development. • Prioritize funding of the high-potential areas for deeper investment.
Alignment with emerging trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align with shift toward sustainable food systems to position EOA as a core solution for Africa’s food security, climate resilience, and economic transformation. Aligning EOA strategies with national and regional climate policies. • Leverage on rising demand for Indigenous foods through production, processing, marketing, and research. • Advocating for gender responsive EOA policies.
Align EOA activities with government funded initiatives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning and leveraging government funded priority value chains and initiatives to enhance synergy, scalability, and impact.
Streamlining implementation and coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralize decision making through National Steering Committees (NSCs) to oversee country-level implementation, reducing bottlenecks from the Continental Secretariat. • Limit the number of project components to focus on only the most impactful ones. e.g. market development, policy advocacy, and institutional capacity building).
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure development of more inclusive and relevant EOA-I indicators by involving constituents (farmers, NGOs, private sector, researchers) in co-developing EOA specific indicators and submitting for adoption into CAADP’s biennial review process. The alignment of EOA-I next strategic period with the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) presents a good opportunity for indicator alignment. • Develop harmonized data collection protocols including those for the CAADP EOA indicators and integrate into national agricultural reporting systems. • Enhance institutional and technical capacity of governments and partners on data accuracy and usability.

5.2.2 Pillar Specific Recommendations

The six pillars of EOA-I remain relevant in promoting EOA by addressing key areas like research, training, market development, policy integration, and aligning with broader continental frameworks like CAADP and Agenda 2063. However, implementation challenges, such as fragmented efforts and resource limitations, have hindered their full impact.

The broad scope of the initiative, covering multiple countries, regional bodies, and thematic areas, has led to resource dilution and inefficiencies in implementation. A review of the pillars is necessary to streamline focus and enhance efficiency. While all six areas are important, greater emphasis should be placed on market development, policy integration, and institutional capacity building, as these have shown the highest potential for long-term sustainability.

To maximize impact, stronger coordination and integration between the pillars is needed. Research should be directly linked to value chain development and policy adoption, ensuring that innovations reach farmers and influence national policies. Multi-stakeholder collaboration, including private sector partnerships and regional economic communities, can also improve coherence. Decentralizing decision making and focusing on fewer, high impact interventions will enhance efficiency and long-term sustainability.

Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension

Intensify research, training, and extension activities.

Under this pillar, the EOA-I initiative has focused on research, knowledge gathering, training, and workshops. There is an opportunity to extend this work to the publication and dissemination of EOA and AE materials and increase investments in research on emerging and topical issues, such as GMOs, EOA seeds, pesticides, weed control, and FMSS; and capacity for the adoption of resilience and productivity-enhancing technologies.

Partnerships with institutions that have complementary mandates, and technical expertise will be critical in accelerating the co-generation, validation, and dissemination of EOA knowledge and technologies. A potential partnership with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), (which serves as the technical arm of the AUC on matters concerning agriculture, science, technology, and innovation) would be instrumental in coordinating and advocating for agricultural research. FARA possesses the institutional capacity, technical networks, and influence needed to elevate research on EOA across the continent. In addition, collaboration with other international research institutions such as CGIAR would enhance research, innovation, and technology transfer in EOA. These institutions can provide access to cutting-edge scientific knowledge, funding opportunities, and scalable solutions that support farmer adoption, policy development, and market integration.

The promotion and dissemination of EOA knowledge through validated knowledge products has been a key achievement of the KCOA. This can be jointly scaled up, ensuring that resources are efficiently utilized to drive change.

This recommendation aligns with AU Agenda 63' Aspiration 1 on research, capacity building, and organic agricultural practices as key drivers for sustainable agriculture and food security; and the Nairobi Declaration on Soil Health and CAADP Post Malabo Declaration Strategy/ Action Plan that both emphasize capacity building for the adoption of soil-friendly practices and increasing productivity and resilience through investments in cost-effective technologies.

Pillar 2: Information and Communication

Promote large-scale dissemination of EOA and AE knowledge and practices.

In the new strategy, the promotion and dissemination of large-scale ecological organic agriculture and AE knowledge and practices is recommended to augment the gains so far. The EOA-I should integrate with the KCOA platform that has a presence in more countries in Africa, beyond those where EOA-I is currently active. Further, there is an opportunity to scale technology transfer by building knowledge hubs beyond the current five regions in Africa to increase the availability of EOA and AE information and build a critical mass of EOA experts across the region(s).

The large-scale dissemination of EOA and AE aligns with Agenda 2063's goals for modern, resilient, and knowledge-driven agriculture systems and contributes to the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme (ASBPP) under Farmer Managed Seed Systems by accelerating increasing access to EOA and AE information; and also aligns to the CAADP Post Malabo Strategy's focus on technology transfer, capacity building, and inclusive partnerships to accelerate agricultural transformation.

Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development

Implement certification protocol for EOA and AE products.

A two-way certification process of exports (EOA products) and imports (EOA inputs) is recommended as a strategy to develop high value chains and promote trade in the next strategy. Setting uniform standards will enhance competitiveness of EOA products both locally and internationally, improving overall consumer trust and safety. The EOA trademark requires upgrading to a continental mark to promote awareness of the standardization mark. In this regards, African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) is a relevant organisation for collaboration in harmonization of national and/or RECs standards within the continent and promotion of intra-African and global trade. So far, ARSO's 14 organic agriculture standards have been harmonized and are awaiting publication as African Standards⁷³. Further, collaboration with the National Bureau of Standards would facilitate implementation of standards to ensure that products meet safety, quality, and health requirements. These collaborations would enhance AfCFTA by providing seamless trade across nations.

Diversifying/broadening the value chain base for EOA to increase farmer participation.

The success of EOA and AE value chain development calls for increased and consistent farmer engagement. The next strategy should adopt strategies that promote access to labour-saving technologies for farmers. Mainstreaming the participation of the youth in the EOA and AE, given their numerical strength, energy, and tech savviness, is now of a higher priority than before. Engaging youth in EOA and AE through digitalized value chains, e-commerce, and labour-saving technologies can drive job creation in organic farming, agro-processing, and sustainable agribusinesses. Strategies that prioritize the digitalization of the value chains and promote the use of e-commerce and other digital platforms are recommended.

EOA-I should deliberate effort to build on the current traction by increasing the engagement of farmers, input suppliers, and consumers, providing critical information, and enhancing capacity building to raise consumer awareness of EOA and AE benefits. The critical role played by the private sector should be exploited to crowd in market-facing actors to invest in EOA and AE value chains. Avenues to achieve this include but are not limited to designing a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework for strategic engagement with private sectors (such as chambers of commerce, banks, processing companies, distributors etc.)

Finally, strategies to promote market development for EOA and AE products are recommended. Accelerating the rollout of quality schemes such as PGS, combined with local-level standards, sharing of good practices, and success for improvement of certification and

⁷³ Organic honey, aquaculture, dairy production and pasture, livestock production, grass-finished beef cattle production, potatoes, poultry, rice, tomatoes, garlic, sweet potatoes and sunflower.

compliance processes, are poised as key actions to increase the uptake of EOA and AE products into local, regional, and international markets. The PGS experiences in KCOA serve as successful showcases for market development, demonstrating how locally driven certification models can enhance consumer trust and expand market opportunities for EOA and AE products. Scaling up PGS, alongside local standards and best practices, will strengthen certification and compliance processes, making organic and agroecological products more competitive in local, regional, and international markets.

The supply chain could be beefed up by promoting strategically-selected value chains per country from a food systems perspective starting from the development of more resilient seeds and technologies, empowering the seed sector, promoting awareness of the health benefits of consuming EOA and AE products and developing innovative products that can be locally produced.

The recommendation to develop and implement a two-way certification protocol for EOA and AE products and diversifying value chains directly contribute to CAADP Post Malabo Strategy, ASBPP (Farmer Managed Seed Systems), the Nairobi Declaration on Soil Health, and AfCFTA AU Agenda 2063 as they promote product quality and traceability through certification protocols and regional standards; enhance sustainability, market access, and inclusivity in agriculture; and facilitate intra-African trade under AfCFTA while incentivizing the adoption of sustainable practices aligned with soil health goals. These actions strengthen farmer-managed seed systems, improve food security, and empower rural communities, advancing Africa's agricultural transformation and resilience.

Pillar 4: Networking and Partnerships

Scale up EOA and AE initiatives beyond the 9 countries of focus.

In the next strategy, the EOA-I initiative could be scaled up to be more than the current 9 countries, incorporating more principles of AE. EOA-I should leverage existing partnerships and programs such as the KCOA that are being implemented in more than the 9 EOA countries and other multi-agency initiatives around the continent. Learning between countries at different levels of the implementation of EOA and policies should be encouraged to enhance best practices and ultimately increase EOA coverage by moving countries from their current EOA typologies to the next. Policymakers exhibit low levels of awareness regarding EOA and AE, as does the public, highlighting the need for stronger advocacy and awareness campaigns to drive the development and enforcement of more supportive EOA policies at the national level in the next strategy.

Increased involvement of RECs, national governments, and the private sector, and other key stakeholders is essential to facilitate policy harmonization, cross-border trade, and knowledge exchange, while private sector engagement will drive investment, innovation, and market linkages. Stakeholders such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU), and global foundations can provide critical funding. Leveraging these partnerships will further mainstream EOA and support the realization of AU Agenda 2063 and AfCFTA goals for sustainable agricultural transformation.

This recommendation aligns with AU Agenda 2063's vision for sustainable and inclusive agricultural transformation across Africa. Incorporation of AE contributes to CAADP's focus on climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable intensification, while peer learning and partnerships will in some way, strengthen institutions in seed systems (advancing ASBPP strategies). EOA and AE policy awareness and related work aligning with the Nairobi Declaration's goals of prioritizing soil health and sustainability; and finally, policy alignment will facilitate trade in certified organic and AE products, contributing to AfCFTA.

Pillar 5: Policy and Program Development

Prioritizing the development of comprehensive EOA and AE policies to drive the agroecological transition in Africa

The African Union (AU), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and AU Member States should prioritize the development of comprehensive policies that explicitly support EOA and agroecology. This includes creating legal frameworks that facilitate organic certification, promote research and development in organic and agroecology practices, and provide incentives for farmers transitioning to EOA and AE practices. Secondly, the implementation of EOA and AE strategies faces challenges such as inadequate funding, lack of technical expertise, and insufficient infrastructure to support farming practices. Indeed, while training initiatives have reached a significant number of farmers, the sustainability of these practices may not be guaranteed, given limited access to markets and resources. In the next strategy, the development of policies should *inter alia* pivot increased public funding through the AU framework, including reallocating conventional input subsidies towards supporting EOA and AE, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the initiative. Further, the current continental EOA framework provides leverage to the Heads of State and Government and respective ministries for the allocation of adequate public funding to EOA and AE. Advocacy efforts to repurpose some of the funds (including grants, subsidies, and credit) allocated for conventional input subsidies at the national level to EOA could be avenues to address the current 60% funding gap.

These recommendations align closely with the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063, CAADP Post Malabo Strategy, ASBPP, the Nairobi Declaration on Soil Health, and AfCFTA of advocating for comprehensive EOA and AE-supportive policies (including stronger national and regional policy harmonization) and funding realignment.

Pillar 6: Institutional Capacity Building

A robust M&E framework that aligns with the CAADP EOA and AE indicators should be established for use by partners at country level including the relevant ministries, and programme and project implementing partners. This will provide clear metrics and indicators, to better assess progress, identify challenges, and make informed decisions to enhance the implementation of EOA.

Further, there is a need to train all key stakeholders including CLOs and pillar implementing partners on standardized data collection as well as strengthen national data reporting on EOA and AE indicators. This will contribute to CAADP's emphasis on the importance of evidence-based decision-making, which relies on comprehensive and accurate data collection and analysis.

The EOA-I secretariat can further strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders including the CLOs and pillar implementing partners by promoting knowledge exchange to learn from each other's successes and challenges, ultimately enhancing participation and engagement in EOA initiatives across the continent.

Annex 1 Documents Reviewed

- i. Landscape Assessment of Agroecology, including EOA in Africa, 2024
- ii. Report of the study on the legal, policy and institutional development of EOA in Southern, Northern, Central, and Southern Africa undertaken by AUC under the EOA-I
- iii. Report on the legislation and policy development of EOA-I in 3 eastern Africa countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia.
- iv. Country-specific reports, plans, and strategies on Agriculture, particularly EOA, if any.
- v. AU Decision on Organic Farming, (the basis of Ecological Organic Agriculture)
- vi. EOA Strategic Plan (2015-2025) and EOA Action Plan (2015-2020)
- vii. SDC and SSNC Project Documents (for the period 2013-2018)
- viii. Report of the Assessment of SSNC contribution to first phase of EOA in Eastern Africa or EOA Mid-term Review Report 2016
- ix. Report of the Organizational and Capacity Assessment (2018)
- x. Baseline Study of EOA Initiative in Africa- Phase 2 – 2019

Annex 2 Areas of Inquiry per Objective

1. *What are the current policy frameworks and strategies that have been developed in line with or to contribute to the EOA strategic plan (2015-2025) in African countries? To what extent are these a direct result of the EOA Initiative?*

Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<u>EOA Policy Frameworks & Strategies</u> i) What are existing EOA policy frameworks/ strategies in the countries that implement EOA-I? ii) How and what has been the contribution of EOA-I to the development of these strategies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agencies and country levels as <i>outlined in 2.1 above</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review • Key Informant Interviews 	Content analysis, Descriptive statistics.

2. *What interventions and/or activities have been conducted to foster awareness, provide technical support, and advocate for supportive policies for the adoption of agroecology to be scaled up at national levels?*

Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
Which agroecology awareness interventions / activities are taking place at the national level? - What is the intervention? - Who are the players? (funders / audience) - What have they achieved? - What are the challenges being faced?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as <i>outlined in 2.1 above</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	Content analysis. Descriptive statistics
What are the ongoing technical support initiatives fostering upscaling up of agroecology at national levels - What kind of technical support is being provided? - Who are the actors providing this support? - What have they achieved? - What are the challenges being faced?			
What are the ongoing policy and advocacy initiatives supporting upscaling up of agroecology at national levels? - Who are the actors behind this support? - What have they achieved? - What are the challenges being faced?			

3. What data types on EOA and its contribution to nutrition and food security and climate change, are currently being monitored?

Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there nutrition-based/ climate change-based / food security- based EOA being monitored at country level? - If yes, - What are the indicators? - Who monitors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level - In-depth interviews with BVAT - Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk review - Key Informant Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content analysis. - Descriptive statistics

4. What monitoring system(s) has or have been erected to evaluate progress against the three CAADP indicators on EOA (i.e., 1. Total arable land under organic fertilizers; 2. Status of Farmer Managed Seed Systems integration into policy instruments 3. Share of agricultural land under EOA/Agroecology practices).

Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which institutions/ actors are involved in monitoring any or all the 3 CAADP indicators in the target countries? - What structures exist to support the monitoring any or all the 3 indicators? - What mechanisms are in place to source and validate information on the any or all the 3 indicators? - Who provides the data on any or all the indicators? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content analysis. Descriptive statistics

5. What is the continental, regional, and national progress of the EOA-I against its 5 strategic objectives?

Priority 1: Research, Training, and Extension

Strategic Objective 1: To carry out holistic demand driven, multi-disciplinary, gender-sensitive and participatory research, training, and extension in support of EOA by 2025.

Outcome(s): Scientific, indigenous knowledge, technologies, and innovations on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) increased

Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the % increase in EOA knowledge, practice, and documentation? - What is the # of EOA scholars, publications and popular versions of EOA-related scholarships and internships offered? - What is the % increase in farmers' uptake and improved attitude in EOA practices? - What is the % increase in the number of training institutes and centers of excellence offering EOA curricula? - What is the % increase in food security and nutrition attributed to EOA practices? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content analysis. Descriptive statistics

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the % increase in household income levels attribute to EOA? - What is the % reduction of environmental degradation (soil, water, agro-biodiversity, etc.)? - What is the % increase in acreage under EOA? - Has EOA achieved at least 30% of farming/pastoral households are resilient to climate and weather relates risks? - In which aspects has this pillar contributed to on-going research initiative by other partners such as FARA or on topical issues such as farmer-managed seed systems? 			
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Priority 2: Information and Communication

Strategic Objective 2: To collate, package, and disseminate research findings and other relevant information to various stakeholders using various approaches and channels of communication by 2025.

Outcome(s): Information and communication on EOA approaches, good practices (production, processes, and learning systems) developed, packaged and disseminated

Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the % increase in awareness of EOA practices among the various stakeholders? - What is the % increase in EOA information materials and resources (print, media, audio, visual, online, scientific publications and popular versions etc.)? - What is the % increase in African countries with an EOA information and communication strategies? - What is the % increase of African countries with EOA resource centers? - Has the brand EOA developed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	<p>Content analysis.</p> <p>Descriptive statistics</p>

Priority 3: Value Chain and Market Development

Strategic Objective 3: To increase the share of quality EOA products at national, regional and international markets through value chain analysis and market development by 2025.			
<i>Outcome(s):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EOA product value chain mapping, data collection, opportunity analysis, and product/input vetting conducted. - Business Development Strategies (BDS) for target businesses along value chains developed. - The market share of EOA quality products at the national, regional and international markets increased. 			
Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the % increase in the number of values added EOA products? - What is the % increase in amounts and quality of inputs (seeds, fertilizer and bio pesticides) along with product value chains? - What is the % increase in amounts and quality of products with added value? - What is the % increase in the market share and demand for EOA products in the market (national, regional and international)? - Has EOA created at least 30% of youth in agricultural value chains? - Has EOA increased the number of women and youth entering and accessing agri-business economic opportunities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	<p>Content analysis.</p> <p>Descriptive statistics</p>

Priority 4: Networking and Partnerships

Strategic Objective 4: To foster and strengthen synergies among stakeholders in Africa through building networks and partnerships by 2025.			
<i>Outcome(s): Functional partnerships and networks at national, regional and continental levels.</i>			
Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
		o Desk review	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the % increase of stakeholders in Africa collaborating on EOA initiatives? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Key Informant Interviews 	<p>Content analysis.</p> <p>Descriptive statistics</p>
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Priority 5: Policy and Programme Development

Strategic Objective 5: To lobby and advocate for the mainstreaming of EOA programmes, policies, and plans in the agriculture sector as well as other related sectors by 2025.			
<i>Outcome(s):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A harmonized understanding and awareness of the value and benefits of ecological organic agriculture (EOA) among various stakeholders realized. - Integration and alignment of EOA into National governments and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) policies, plans, and regulatory frameworks of the agriculture sector and other relevant line ministries realized. 			
Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is % increase in the number of countries in Africa adopting and implementing EOA? - What is the % increase in policies, plans and programmes promoting EOA? - To what extent has the re-commitment to allocate at least 10% of public spending on agriculture been achieved? - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	<p>Content analysis.</p> <p>Descriptive statistics</p>

Priority 6: Institutional Capacity Building

Strategic Objective 6: To strengthen the governance, management and operations of EOA institutions in Africa for effective functioning and service delivery by 2025.			
<i>Outcome(s): Well governed, efficient and effective EOA Institutions.</i>			
Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the % increase in the number of EOA institutions? - What is the % increase in capacity and good governance of EOA Institutions? - What is the % increase in the number of EOA affiliated Institutions? - To what extent have effective partnerships between state and nonstate actors been developed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	<p>Content analysis.</p> <p>Descriptive statistics</p>
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Overall

<i>Synthesis of all the 6 objectives</i>			
Key areas of enquiry	Sources of data	Tools for data collection	Type of analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the emerging unexpected (positive / negative) outcomes? - What challenges have been faced, particularly the 60% funding gap? - What are the lessons learned? what are the emerging issues / trends such as <u>agroecology, food and nutrient security, and sustainable development, climate change, post-harvest losses, food systems, impact of Covid 19 pandemic, women, youth and inclusion of vulnerable populations agenda shifting funding mechanisms etc. and opportunities such as the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, carbon trade?</u> - What can be done differently in future to address similar concerns, in <u>comparison with other initiatives in Africa and projected future trends?</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Interviews with EOA-I's partners at country level o In-depth interviews with BVAT o Review of EOA reports at executing agency and country levels as outlined in 2.1 above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Desk review o Key Informant Interviews 	<p>Content analysis.</p> <p>Descriptive statistics</p>

<p>- What are the opportunities for upscaling, in terms of <u>best practices, available knowledge, partnership development, alignment to MEAL, governance and implementation arrangements (CSC, continental secretariat, EA, CLOs and Pillars, etc.</u></p>			
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6. Based on the assessment results (question 1 to 5 above), what is recommended for the new strategic plan (2025-2035) in terms of key priority areas, strategic objectives and strategic approaches?

Overall findings will inform the *key priority areas, strategic objectives, and strategic approaches for the next strategic plan period for the EOA- initiative.*

Key findings will dwell on aspects such as:

- i) The status and gaps of EOA-I in respect to policy frameworks and implementation of EOA strategies.
- ii) EOA interventions initiatives that have achieved tremendous success and could be scaled up or replicated.
- iii) Emerging trends at the continental, regional, and national levels regarding EOA, highlighting but not limited to i) government and development industry's interest, ii) public and private funding structure, iii) knowledge base and institutions holding custody, iv) socio-economics conditions precedent.
- iv) Key lessons learned (as from approach and strategy, working methods, M&E reporting arrangements, stakeholder engagement, etc.) from the implementation of the current strategic plan that can inform the new strategic plan.

Recommendations will basically depend on the findings. Though not exhaustive some of the areas that may precipitate recommendations include:

- v) Using the status and gaps of EOA-I in respect to policy frameworks and implementation of EOA strategies to i) provide a baseline for the new strategy and ii) highlight/recommend policy gaps and needed policy actions for the attention of AU, RECs and countries, including potential synergistic arrangements.
- vi) Highlighting opportunities for expanded programs/ interventions or activities to raise awareness about agroecology and provide technical assistance to stakeholders.

- vii) Highlighting potential opportunities and synergies among actors such as governments, RECs, civil society, private sector, and others to advocate for supportive policies (or their implementation) conducive to the scaling up of agroecology.
- viii) Highlighting opportunities for investments in data and analytics to generate evidence on the contribution of EOA to nutrition, food security, and climate change resilience.
- ix) New indicators or improving the monitoring and reporting of the current indicators to strengthen CAADP reporting.
- x) Use the findings to develop a policy brief. Specifically, the policy brief will address the need, importance, and urgency of the policy issue; identify the policy problem by examining facts, contexts, and research processes that describe the status, trends, and gaps impacting EOA at national, regional, and continental levels; provide the policy solution along with policy implications. Finally, the policy brief will outline key policy recommendations for action by member states, regional economic communities, and the AU.

Annex 3 Ongoing synergies per country

1. **Kenya:** Egerton University (Pillar 1), Farm Kenya, (Pillar 2), Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) (Pillar 3 & 4). Further collaborations in Kenya include the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya, and the Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE). Other significant partners are Biovision Africa Trust, Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF), local universities like the University of Nairobi, as well as various civil society organizations and farmer groups. These entities work together to support farmers, conduct research, provide education, and integrate ecological organic agriculture into national policies.
2. **Uganda:** Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) (Pillar 1, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda (Pillar 2), Kulika Trust (Pillar3), Pelum Uganda (Pillar 4). Other collaborations are noted between Uganda Martyrs University and University of St. Joseph Ngethe Campus and Mbuye Farm Institute for research and extension services, Open University, and PELUM Uganda in dissemination of AE information through SMS platform; and between Makerere university and Accelerate Agro-Food Initiative in co-creation and building sustainable agro-businesses.
3. **Rwanda:** Regional Research Centre for Integrated Development (RCID) (Pillar 1), Radio HUGUKA (Pillar 2), Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) (Pillar 3 &4). Further collaborations include those established with Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM), the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI), the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB), and the Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB) in promotion of organic agriculture.
4. **Ethiopia:** Wollo University (Pillar 1), PAN Ethiopia (Pillar 2), Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) (Pillar 3 & 4). In Ethiopia, ISD is collaborating on leveraging the SNV Biogas Project to introduce bio-slurry as an organic input for farmers. Pillar 3 is implemented in collaboration with Holeta Agriculture Research Center on crops like potatoes, carrots, indigenous kales, onions, leeks, and lettuce. Pillar 1 partners with Maichew Agricultural College, Wukro Agricultural College, and Wukro Saint Mary College for research and dissemination of organic agriculture practices.
5. **Tanzania:** Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (Pillar 1), PELUM Tanzania (Pillar 2), Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) (Pillar 3 & 4). Tanzania, TOAM collaborates with the ECO ACT project and partners with CISU on the Farmers Family Learning Groups project. They also work with Swiss Aid Tanzania on agroecology research and advocacy. SAT supports compost making using industrial waste with Guavay Company Limited, which manufactures organic fertilizer.
6. **Mali:** Institute of Rural Economy (IER) Mali (Pillar 1), Association Malienne pour la Solidarité et le Développement (AMSD) (Pillar 2), Union des Producteurs de Sésame de Banamba (UPSB) (Pillar 3), Fédération Nationale des Producteurs de l'Agriculture Biologique et Equitable du Mali (Pillar 4). Additionally, these activities are implemented in collaboration with MOA, NGOs, churches, and SOS Faim to provide organic seeds.
7. **Senegal:** Environment Développement Action pour la Protection Naturelle des Terroirs (EndaPronat) (Pillar 1), Environnement et Développement en Afrique (IED) (Pillar 2), Agricole Afrique (Pillar 3), National Council for Concertation and Cooperation of Rural People (CNCR) Pillar 4. Other collaborations have been realized in Senegal between the

University of Dakar and ENDA PRONAT collaborating in EOA research in the university. Further, synergies with the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research have subsequently led to creation of a degree program and training modules. There has also been close collaboration with the Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research and Development on research in farming techniques, land tenure, and other areas.

8. **Benin:** Research Laboratory on Innovation for Agricultural Development of the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Parakou (LRIDA/FA/UP) (Pillar 1), Platform of Civil Society Actors of Benin (PASCiB) (Pillar 2), Research and Technical Assistance Center for the Environment and Agricultural Development (CRASTEDA ONG) (Pillar 3), Beninese Organization for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture (OBEPAB) Pillar 4. OBEPAB collaborates with agricultural research institutions for decision-making and value chain development working with farmers' organizations to empower and build farmers' capacity.
9. **Nigeria:** Kwara State University (Pillar 1), Farmers Development Union (Pillar 2), Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society (Pillar 3), Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) (Pillar 4).

Annex 4 People Interviewed

No.	Type of organization	Organization	Name
1.	International development agencies	GIZ/KCOA	Behaim vonDorith
		GIZ/KCOA	Florian Peloschek
		SSNC	Bo Lager
		FiBL/IFOAM	Markus Arbenz
2.	RECs	ECOWAS	Ernest Aubee
3.	Executing Agency	BvAT	Dr. David Amudavi
		BvAT	Venancia Wambua
4.	CSC	BvAT	Alex Mutungi
5.	Other partners	Egypt KCOA Coordinator	Naglaa Ahmed
		Zimbabwe Organic Producers' and Processors' Association (ZOPPA)	Fortunate Hofisi Nyakanda
		Burundi Organic Agriculture Movement (BOAM)	Alice Nizeyimana
6.	RSC	West Africa EOA Regional Cluster	Prof. Simplicite Vodouhe
7.	NOAMs	Nigeria Organic Agriculture Network (NOAN)	Jude Obi
		Nigeria Organic Agriculture Network (NOAN)	Oyewole Gbadamosi
		Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)	Lise Chantal
		Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)	Dieudonne Sindikubwabo
		Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)	Bakari Mongo

		Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)	Eustace Kiarri
		Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)	Samuel Ndung'u
8.	CLOs	Pelum Uganda	Josephine Akia
		Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)	Eustace Kiarri
		Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)	Bakari Mongo
		Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)	Lise Chantal
		Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)	Dieudonne Sindikubwabo
		FENABE Mali	Toumani Sidibe
		Organisation Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (PABE/OBEPAB)	Simplice Davo
		Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)	Samuel Ndung'u
		Burundi Organic Agriculture Movement (BOAM)	Alice Nizeyimana
		Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)	Gizaw Gebremariam
9.	PIPs	SAGE Uganda	Robert Okello
		AGRECOL Afrique	Assane Gueye
		Pesticide Action Nexus Association Ethiopia (PAN Ethiopia)	Atalo Belay
		FENAB, Senegal	Ibrahima Seck
		FENABE Mali	Toumani Sidibe
10.	Education Institutions	Ngozi University	Prof Bonaventure Minani
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11.	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Nigeria	Janet Igoh

Thank You

