



Summary report on

The East African Organic Standards and Certification Workshop

Arusha, Tanzania 1- 3 December 2003

Day 1

Dr. Mwatima Juma chaired Day 1 and in her opening remarks she welcomed the participants from all corners of East Africa and more especially those friends who came from Ghana, Switzerland and Zambia. She noted that Tanzania is honoured to have this opportunity to host such a gathering and one of the kind.

She noted further that the organic movement is growing and, there is need for each participant to support organic farming in their respective countries and this was an opportunity to develop a corporation and come up with one voice at regional level while growing and expanding at international and national levels.

She further emphasized that it's an opportunity for East African Countries to get local and domestic markets for organic products at a reasonable prices and compete favourably in the external markets. She urged the participants to contribute wholeheartedly.

With those remarks, she declared the conference open.

The workshop elected Mr. Leonard Mtama to be the Master of Ceremonies of the conference.

Presentations:

Country Presentations were by;

Mr. Charles Walaga (Uganda). In his presentation he noted that over 33,000 smallholders are certified and between 65-75 smallholders are in organic agriculture but not yet certified, they still practise traditional farming system which are stable and those which are unable hence this calls for unity and which in Uganda NOGAMU has done to unite all the farmers, marketers, exporters and processors.

Mr. John Njoroge and Mr. Ngugi Mutura (Kenya) they noted that IFOAM has encouraged many organisations to start up organic farming in Kenya and several meetings have been held. Companies from UK have promoted organic agriculture and certification under soil association has certified few companies and they are exporting to

European countries however, they noted that Government has been sceptical on the system as a result of original approaches of many NGOs hence they believe that there is not proof that it can be sustainable and work adequately. They noted that they lack markets for their productions and the system to follow especially to link up with inspector. Organic standards has been developed for Kenya and sent to IFOAM for circulation and a standard training manual is in place for the Kenyan government.

Mr. Leonard Mtama (Tanzania) noted that in mid 2002 Tanzania lead an organic convert together to promote organic agriculture. They have 30,000 farmers practising organic agriculture more especially in Cocoa and coffee. They have 4 certifiers (Krav, Soil Association, IMO and EcoCert). Government is in support of organic agriculture and has opened up policies, which allow NGOs to practice organic agriculture in the country. (See annex 1-4).

Mrs. Isabel Mansa and Mr Adimado Samuel presented a paper on Ghana as far as organic standards and Certification are concerned. In their presentation they noted that Ghana as a country does not have a local certification body, which certify local organic products, it's the government, which does it against its standards (see annex 5).

Ms. Bridget O'Connor made a short presentation on level of organic production in Zambia. She noted that Zambia started organic farming 4 years ago and there are about 600 smallscale producers in 6 different projects in Zambia who are certified organic or in various stages of conversion to organic. She further noted that Government has not specific policies on organic agriculture but are directly involved in promoting it e.g. in refusal to accept GMOs. She noted that Zambia is not yet in process of setting up Certification Body but looking at all the options to do so (see annex 6).

Mr. Ong Kung Wai made a presentation on the international scenario for organic standards and certification. The following topics were covered; principles of organic agriculture & certification, organic production worldwide, rules and regulations (government & private), import rules, import access option, local development option, managing dual programmes (simple local standards & export) and managing inspections for international CBs (see annex 7).

Mr. Fred Kalibwani an IFOAM Africa Coordinator also gave brief presentation on IFOAM activities in Africa. He noted that their goal is worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially; economically sound systems based on the principles of organic agriculture. He informed participants that IFOAM has over 750 members internationally and the main principal message to Africa is, Organic Agriculture as a viable option for sustainable development. He noted that adopting Organic Agriculture does not mean a return to some form of low technology, backward or traditional agriculture but instead it pursues a blend of innovations that will lift Africa high.

Day one was crown with questions and comments from the participants, which were answered by the presenters.



Day 2

Mr. John Njoroge chaired Day 2. In his remarks he urged participants to visit the exhibition hall where organic products were displayed from different countries. Participants were divided into 5 groups, which were to discuss different topics allocated to them. Each group was to get a facilitator, chair and reporter.

On Standards and Certification the topics discussed were;

1. Standards, General and Crop Production
2. Standards, Animal Husbandry
3. Functional and affordable organic certification
4. Organizational formats and business strategies for certification bodies
5. Preparation for National Working group discussion

Group 1: Standards, General and Crop production

Local standards and export standards

Weaknesses of having two sets of standards

- Use of local standards may reduce confidence of the consumers
- In local standard document, only instructions are given, and no basis therefore less value/fewer details and lacks definitions
- Local farmers may not be able to export their produce abroad
- Local standards do not have consideration for social aspects
- The local standards may bring about slow capacity building and so slow the Organic Agriculture competitiveness
- By presenting two standards, means double work to the ones monitoring the system yet the consumer requirements are the same
- And at the other hand, the export standards are drawn/too completed for local farmer to understand
- Also the one for export is so much foreign oriented
- Short standards don't talk at animal husbandry/excludes
- Emphasis in local standards is on production and not processing
- Local standards not strict on usage of harmful substances

Strengths of having two sets of standards

- It's convenient for a farmer to adopt the local standards because it's less detailed
- A one year conversion period in the local standards gives a quick access to the market by the producer and it's a more realistic for our region
- The local supplier gives allowance in case of unavoidable circumstances e.g. seeds
- The two standards systems allow for gradual conversion
- The two standards facilitate to meet the standards of both local and export markets
- The export standard is well detailed and not easy to go astray for one intending to export

Conversion Time:

- Fair length of conversion; suggested 1-2 years considering the variations existing at National levels and marketing the country
- Can retroactive conversion be used? Yes
- What PROOF should be accepted?
 - Production records
 - Input/output
 - Field management
 - Existence of a managed fallow land
 - Oral evidence from the farmer
 - Level of Biodiversity in and around the farm
 - Type of crops existing on the farm
 - Interviewing neighbours
- After retroactive acceptance, should there be a conversion period? Not a conversion period, but a period of up to one year will be allowed for adjustment
- Can there be different conversion time for local and export market? Yes, every market determines its conversion time

Handling of weeds and pests; such as armyworms, red locust & quallea quallea.

At the farm level, there are already some organic ways of controlling ordinary pest and weeds. At regional level the migratory pest are usually out of control by ordinary farmers, there are some control systems set up by regional bodies, but where a non organic mean is used there will be a withdraw period. The farmer must notify the certifiers of such an outbreak.

Seeds

How to get untreated seeds for all crops?

- From other certified farmers
- Untreated seeds from sure sources e.g. outside seed growers
- There is no legislation for local production but for imported seeds
- Seed companies are commercial entities and they will respond to customers' request. Some existing companies in the region are not even treating seeds
- The issue is not self sufficient but access to quality seeds when needed. Our farmers have already collected their seeds but also got it from their fellow farmers
- How to get quality seeds; promote seed management system that existed promotes improvement, in general the standards should recognize traditional seed management systems as organic

Group 2: Animal husbandry standards

General conclusion from the discussions: There is no voice on organic standards from Africa in general discussions on animal husbandry standards. Need to bring this up.

Zero Grazing

Creation of adequate exercise area for daily cutting. Areas, which are natural with grass. Investigate- Recommended space per animal.

Tethering

To be in a way that the rope does not injure the animal. Shade trees to be provided.

Livestock Feed

To follow the existing standards and domesticate them.

Ticks, Fleas, other Parasites

Biological control systems at the housing and around

For Tsetse fly

Use of Biological control e.g. pheromone traps.

Recommendation:

- More research and spread of information on biological control and local knowledge in disease control
- Use of documented ethno veterinary skills

Pastoral based livestock

We have to start by understanding pastoralism as a way of life and its complexities. The biggest number of livestock in East Africa is produced in pastoral regions (approx. 70% of all beef and mutton). Yet no work in certifying pastoral organic methods.

Recommendations:

Need to understand and work in a participatory way with pastoralists
Study and use available information on traditional technical knowledge in Husbandry as a base to standards.

Group 3: Organisational formats and business strategies for certification bodies

Who are the Stakeholders (to organic certification)?

Clients:	Official/law:	Service providers:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Farmers/producers- Processors- Packing companies- Exporters- Importers- Traders- Transporters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Government- Accreditation Body- Standard Owner- Certification Body- Inspectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Financial institutions- Consumers association- Research- Media- NGOs- Private sectors organizations- Trainers

Who are the Key-Stakeholders (to organic certification)?

- Farmers/producers
- Exporters
- Importers
- Government
- Accreditation Body
- Certification Body
- Inspectors

Who are the Non Key-Stakeholders (to organic certification)?

- Packing companies
- Transporters
- Wholesalers
- Financial institutions
- Media

Functions of the different levels

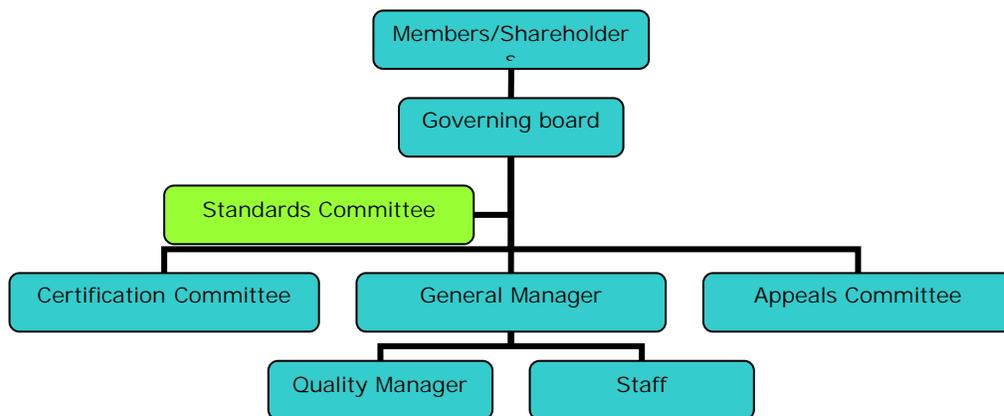
Members

- Ownership (Capital)
- Fees
- Statues
- Legal registration as legal entity
- Election the Board
- Approve accounts
- Approve strategy

Governing board

- Present strategy
- Approve budgets
- Appoint external auditors (financial & Standards)
- Select committees
- Policy and regulation
- Employment and oversight of Managing Director

Structure of a certification body



Functions of Managing Director and Quality Manager

Management	Quality Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Carrying out day to day business– Organisation of inspections– Representation of the certification body– Financially responsible in accordance to the approved budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Implement Quality System– Constant improvement on quality system– Organize Audits– Implement recommendations of int. & ext. audits– Accreditation

Functions of the different boards

- Standards Committee, *Not strictly needed*
- Appeals Committee, Receive and study appeals, Decide on appeals
- Certification Committee, Receiving inspection reports, Decide on Certification

How can stakeholders participate in an effective way?

- Ask for and get efficient services
- Affordable fees
- Information dissemination
- Networking
- Workshops/meetings
- Collaboration with other certifiers
- Participation in policy development

Membership in different organs

- Members - all except government
- Board of Directors - producers, shareholders, association representatives, consumers, standard owners, government institutions
- Certification committee -all except inspectors, certifiers
- Management - open to all, quality is most important

How can we find the right stakeholder “representatives?”

- Advertising
- Personal Recommendations
- Applications
- Interviews
- Cooption/invitation

Relationship with foreign certification bodies

- Sharing experience
- Accreditation of different standards
- Acceptance of external markets

Participation of foreign certification bodies in local certification bodies

- Mutual relationship
- Contractual inspections
- Shareholder
- Partnership
- Representation to the board or standards committee
- Participation in inspection and training

Group 4: Functional and affordable organic certification

Inspection of a grower group with 1000 farmers

Process/activity	No. Persons	Time	By
Application	1	1hr	CB
Documentation Screening	1	2hr	CB
Assignment	1	1/2hr	CB
Inspection	1	20days	Inspector
Inspection Report	1	2days	CB
Approval/Further information	1	1day	CB
Certification Committee Decision	3	3days	CB
Issue Certificate	1	1hr	CB

Rate: \$ 10 per hr – Inspector
 \$ 15 per hr – Other services

Cost of Certification:

Inspector = \$10 x 20 days x 8 hr = \$ 1600

Other = \$ 562.5

Total = \$2162.5

About \$ 2 per Farmer

Client profiling

Small	up to 5 acres	90%
Medium	5 – 20 acres	7%
Large	> 20 acres	3%

What can the producer afford?

S. Crop	Current Market	O. Price
Mango	\$0.6/kg	\$0.8/kg
Banana	\$0.4/kg	\$0.5/kg
Pineapple	\$0.2/kg	\$0.3/kg

Crop	Price	Production	Acre	Income
Pine	\$.3	15 t	2	\$ 9000 org
	\$.2			\$ 6000
Banana	\$.5	8 t	2	\$ 8000 org
	\$.4			\$ 6400

Group 5: East African Cooperation, preparation for national working group discussion

The outcome of the discussions in group 5 can be seen below as the background document for the country discussions.

Day 3

Mr. Alastair Taylor from Uganda chaired Day 3. In his remarks he noted that being the last day of the workshop; many participants are leaving before midday to catch busses and planes. His task was to direct the participants into Country group discussion and there after do the presentations and final conclusion.

In the Country discussion, each group had to discuss possible issues, which could bring together the East African Cooperation mainly on the standard drafting, lobbying and advocacy at national, regional and international level and financing.

The table indicates the suggested way forward by the individual (countries) discussion on the East African Cooperation, and follow up issues

		Uganda	Tanzania	Kenya
Scope of cooperation	Certification to regional standards for regional market Regional inspection for international certification	Agreed Agreed	Agreed Agreed	Regional standard equivalent to fulfil regional certification
Institutional set up	Regional consortium of national Organisation	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed
Stakeholders	National Organisation (wide stakeholder composition)	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed
Governance	Regional board	Agreed	Agreed	Yes, elected officials of organic working groups
Standards	One common regional certification standards	Agreed	Harmonize	Agreed

Drafting	Separate national standards drafting committee (wide stakeholder consultation) Regional standards harmonization committee	Agreed Agreed	Agreed	Agreed Agreed
Adoption	Regional Board Ratification by national assemblies (package vote)	Agreed Agreed	Agreed Agreed	Agreed Agreed
Revision	Regionally scheduled revision process	Agreed	Agreed	National standard committee 2x/yr – regional standard,
Identity	One Regional Seal Common logo with separate country text	Agreed Postponed	Agreed No	One logo
Policy & procedures	Common policies and procedures	Agreed	Comes naturally	Working group of 3 committee bodies to agree on this
Documentation	Common formats and certification	Agreed	Comes naturally	
Inspection	Common protocol	Agreed	Flexible No restrictions	
Certification	Regional oversight (regional certification based certification officers)	Agreed		Agreed
Relation to foreign CBs	Centralized negotiations and relationship development	Agreed	National body	Agreed
International inspection	Centralized inspection assignments for international inspections.	Agreed	No National body responsible	Agreed

Tanzania group:

Suggested that;

Formation of taskforce of six people (two from each country)

Each country within six months should set up their National institutions.

Uganda group:

Ugandan delegate noted that;

Regional certification for international market shall be taken up in the long run
Need for regional consortium for CBs.

Postponed the Identity issue: Advantages and Disadvantages must be analyzed first.

Adoption: Revision committee considers country specific issues.

Certification: Principle agreed but modalities for operation to be put in place to minimize costs.

Ugandan delegate agreed to meet in March 2004 and an interim committee was elected to push forward this concept agreed on 3/12/03. They elected 4 interim committee members and these included: Moses K. Muwanga, David Eboku, Charles Walaga and Betty Makumbi Nabanja

Kenya group:

The delegates from Kenya agreed to meet on 10th January 2004 at Wangong'a Co Advocate, Kimathi House 6th floor Nairobi to continue the work in the newly formed Kenya Organic Agriculture Working group. A stakeholders' meeting to be held in February 2004.

Way Forward

The participants agreed on National discussion to take place during the 1st quarter of the year for Consolidation of ideas and the 2nd quarter for the formation of the taskforce committee to run the whole issues.

Each country was to form a group with three representatives for further discussions on regional cooperation. NOGAMU in Uganda volunteered to take the lead and arrange for a first meeting in conjunction to the Organic Coffee Conference taking place in Kampala in March.

Schedules for national meetings to form groups for the future discussions:

Kenya – February 2004

Uganda – March 2004

Tanzania – March 2004

The delegates agreed on the East African Cooperation proposal with the following recommendations for the national discussions.

Items	Recommendation
Standards	One regional standard
Drafting	One regional harmonization committee
Revision:	Common/regional schedule
Adoption:	Regional mandated representation

Institutional set up	Separate national Organisation
Identity	Common seal/separate texts
Policies & forms	Common
Governance	Regional board/ Consortium of National bodies

Conclusion:

In conclusion, each country gave a way forward for the East African Cooperation on standards and certification of organic agriculture. The first meeting to continue discussions on cooperation will be held in March 2004.

The Mr. Musa K. Muwanga from Uganda closed the workshop, he thanked the participants for sparing their time to participate in this workshop, and more thanks went to the sponsors and organizers of this workshop EPOPA and urged the participants to take all agreed issues seriously so as to come up with untied Organic Standards and Certification Management.

Participants:

Over 90 participants mainly from Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. Other countries represented were Denmark, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Zambia (see address list)

Venue: MS TCDC Centre Arusha

Organizing committee: Mwatima Juma, Felistas Kalomo (exhibition), Gorret Luboobi, Eva Mattsson, Leonard Mtama, Grace Murungi, Ong Kung Wai and Charles Walaga.

Summary report made by Gorret Luboobi and Eva Mattson.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Development in Uganda, presentation by Charles Walaga

Annex 2: Development in Kenya, presentation by John Njoroge

Annex 3: Development in Kenya, presentation by Ngugi Mutura

Annex 4: Development in Tanzania, presentation by Leonard Mtama

Annex 5: Development in Ghana, presentation by Isabel Mansa and Adimado Samuel

Annex 6: Development in Zambia, presentation by Bridget O'Connor

Annex 7: The international scenario for organic standards and certification, presentations by Ong Kung Wai