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Development of organic certification organizations in Uganda and Tanzania

Within the framework of the EPOPA Programme (Export of Organic Products from Africa) a project to develop organic certification bodies in Uganda and Tanzania is implemented. Its objective is to establish local certification organisations in the two countries. Ultimately these local organisations shall reach international recognition. The project is implemented by Grolink AB, one of the two partners in EPOPA. In each country the project works closely with local stakeholders to develop systems that are locally accepted while still being compatible with international norms.

The project supports all the components and processes involved in the establishment of a certification organisation. It contains regional components for training, capacity building and standards development and national components of consensus building, technical assistance and organisational support for the local organizations to be established.

A national organisation has reasonable conditions for reaching a profitability within 3-4 years after the establishment. Once local certification organisations are operational there will be benefits for organic operators in the countries. These benefits are partly financial, i.e. the service will be cheaper and partly a better adaptation to local conditions and thereby a smoother certification process. A local certification body also open up for the development of a domestic market

The project started in July 2002 and will continue for 3 years. Project leader is Gunnar Rundgren. Project consultants will be Eva Mattsson and Peter Lustig. The EPOPA Country Managers in Uganda and Tanzania respectively, Alan Tulip and Marg Leijdens are also be involved in the project. All interested parties are encouraged to contact the project leader, or the country partners/local coordinators.

In Uganda, the project works in the initial stage with a task force and a standards committee established by NOGAMU. NOGAMU acts as the local coordinator of the project. However, it is foreseen that during 2003 a separate legal entity will be formed with a broad stakeholder representation.

In Tanzania, a stakeholder meeting has appointed two committees to develop the necessary standards and procedures during 2003, followed by the establishment of a separate legal entity. The local project coordinator is Leonard Mtama.

For more information about the project:

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