



ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES AND SUCCESSES

ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE (EOAI) IN EASTERN AFRICA

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Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya works with member organizations to promote ecological land use and management practices for improved livelihoods among small holder farmers.

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FOREWORD



This publication entails a collection of the EOA best practices, success stories and key highlights from implementation of the EOA initiative in Eastern Africa through the support of SSNC.

Agriculture in Africa faces increasing challenges to agricultural productivity, occasioned by over-reliance on non-renewable resources. Such challenges include poor linkage to markets and other income generating opportunities, inadequate institutional capacity, poor coordination and networking, poor linkage between the agriculture industry and research institutions, inadequate financial resources, and climate change effects which have made agricultural systems vulnerable. This has therefore made it necessary for the adoption of alternative sustainable forms of farming systems in Africa such as the Ecological Organic System. Over the past three years, the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative has played a key role in enhancing food security and securing livelihoods. Examples of farming practices in EOA include Organic farming, Sustainable Agriculture, Bio-intensive agriculture, Permaculture and Ecological farming. The EOA Initiative has contributed immensely in addressing food insecurity challenges as well promoting environment and natural resources management.

I hereby express my sincere gratitude to SSNC for walking with us throughout the journey and offering financial and technical support towards the implementation of the initiative. I also thank and congratulate the CLOs and PIPs for their tireless efforts towards the achievement of the vision and mission of the EOA initiative. Last but not least, I want to appreciate the staff of PELUM Kenya for all their efforts and hard work towards the implementation of the programme.

Zachary Makanya,
Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya.
January 2016

ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is an indigenous national network which currently comprises of 46 member organizations. PELUM Kenya works with member organizations to promote ecological land use and management practices for improved livelihoods among small scale farmers. PELUM Kenya is mandated by its members to promote Ecological Land Use Management (*elum*) practices and principles in Kenya through networking and capacity building, information sharing and advocacy.

The members of PELUM-Kenya are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other networks working with small scale farmers..

Our Vision

Empowered and prosperous communities deriving their livelihoods from sustainable land use

Our Mission

To promote participatory ecological land use management practices for improved livelihoods among smallholder farmers in Kenya.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFFSA	AFRICA FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ALLIANCE
AFRONET	AFRICA ORGANIC NETWORK
AU	AFRICA UNION
AUC	AFRICA UNION COMMISSION
BFN	BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION
BVAT	BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST
CBO	COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION
CLO	COUNTRY LEAD ORGANIZATION
EAC	EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
ELUM	ECOLOGICAL LAND USE MANAGEMENT
EOA	ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
EOAI	ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE
FAO	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
I&C	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
ICD	INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
ICS	INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM
IGAD	INTER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT
ISD	INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
KOAN	KENYA ORGANIC AGRICULTURE NETWORK
M&E	MONITORING AND EVALUATION
N&P	NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
NOGAMU	NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT OF UGANDA
PELUM	PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LAND USE MANAGEMENT
PGS	PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM
PIP	PILLAR IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
QMS	QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
REC	REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION
RTE	RESEARCH, TRAINING AND EXTENSION
SACDEP	SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
SINGI	SUSTAINABLE INCOME GENERATING INVESTMENT
SSNC	SWEDISH SOCIETY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
TOT	TRAINERS OF TRAINERS
UMU	UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY
USA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VCD	VALUE CHAIN AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT



ABOUT ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE

EOAI is a continental initiative whose overall goal is to mainstream EOA in to national agriculture systems, policies and programmes by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

EOAI Vision

Vibrant Ecological Organic Systems for Enhanced Food Security and Sustainable Development in Africa

EOAI Mission

To scale up ecologically sound strategies and practices among diversified stakeholders through institutional capacity development, scientific innovations, market participation, public policies and programs, outreach and communication, efficient, coordination, networking and partnerships

Specific Objectives

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

STRATEGIC FOCUS/ PILLARS OF EOAI

- A. Research, Training and Extension (RTE) Pillar: Understanding research and training gaps within EOA value chains and undertaking activities to fill them.
- B. Information and Communication (I&C) Pillar: Creating awareness and strengthening EOA extension support systems through diverse information and communication strategies, products and technologies.
- C. Value Chain and Market Development (VCD) Pillar: Stimulating development of sustainable markets and increase trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce both at domestic and export levels within EOA.
- D. Networking and Partnerships (N&P) Pillar: Promoting engagement by relevant stakeholders including governments, farmers, civil society, private sector and the international community.
- E. Policy and Programme Development Pillar: Supporting the development and implementation of enabling policies and programmes.
- F. Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Pillar: Supporting and equipping professionals with skills and competencies to promote EOA in Africa..

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“

Eventually we'll realize
that if we destroy the
ecosystem, we destroy
ourselves.

- jonas salk-

COUNTRY KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

► KENYA

Objective	Key Achievements
Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension (RTE) implemented by SACDEP Kenya	
EOA related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors are capacitated to translate it into practices and application	Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chain available
	Database of relevant research on EOA by institutions compiled and availed to value chain actors.
	A system established for regular updates and dissemination on the status of EOA research at national level.
Pillar 2: Information and Communication (I&C) Pillar implemented by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)	
Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services	Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased through EOA information reaching farmers through farmer trainings, demonstrations, exchange visits
	Availability of farmer information centres and regular information sharing on EOA practices through the “organic farmer magazine” and EOA radio programmes.
Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development Pillar implemented by KOAN	
To increase the share of quality Organic Products at the Local, National and Regional market	Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.
	Awareness raised on concept and benefits of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) among policy makers and practitioners increased
	Capacities of various actors to act effectively and timely in mainstreaming EOA into policy development enhanced
	Development of a national organic directorate which is updated on a yearly basis
Pillar 6: Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Pillar implemented by PELUM Kenya	
Effective and efficient delivery of EOA Interventions	Regional Coordination of the EOA Initiative in Eastern Africa Strengthened
	4 EOA partners have smooth implementation of activities as planned
	Institutional Capacity of EOA Strengthened

► UGANDA

Objective	Achievements
Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar implemented by Makerere University	
Effective country and regional expertise for multidisciplinary research, training and extension to support a holistic productive EOA sector involving women and youth for improved health and nutrition, food security, poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation	A system established for regular updates and dissemination on the status of EAO research at national and regional levels
	Gender sensitive and responsive training programmes for EOA practitioners developed, shared, adopted and institutionalized
	Strengthened collaboration among and within EOA practitioners in research organizations
Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development (VCD) Pillar implemented by NOGAMU	
To integrate smallholder farmers in organic export, regional and domestic value chains for increased access to markets for Organic products by smallholder farmers in Uganda	A quality management system based on an Internal Control System (ICS) or Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) established Selected value chains are analyzed comprehensively, gaps identified and solutions prioritized
	Priorities along the entire selected value chains are profiled for intervention by value chain actors with functional Quality Management System (QMS) is established among the farmer groups/associations and facilitating collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets
	Smallholder associations and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) participating in trade fairs and establishing business relationships
Pillar 4: Networking and Partnerships implemented by PELUM Uganda	
To strengthen networking and partnerships among Ecological Organic Agriculture stakeholders at international, regional and national levels for improved food security, household incomes, better nutrition, and environmental sustainability in Africa	Functional partnerships and networks with AUC, national governments, RECs and networks among EOA relevant stakeholders in Africa Adoption of EOA practices and approaches in Uganda and beyond by of different institutions
	Continental Strategic Partnerships developed and sustained Increased visibility of AfroNet at strategic events at national, regional, continental and international levels National platforms developed
	Networks and partnership developed with Uganda government, national bodies and other EOA stakeholders

BEST PRACTICES AND SUCCESSES

Boosting nutrition for school going children through school gardens in Busia County, Kenya

School going children and adolescents in Busia County often go without nutritious food either at home or in school due to various reasons. This in turn affects their academic performance. It is in this discourse that, the BFN (Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition) Project, working with the Ecological Organic Agriculture project (through a local Community Based Organization, Sustainable Income Generating Investment (SINGI), Departments of Education, Agriculture and Health, initiated garden demonstration plots at seven primary and secondary schools to teach children and adolescents sustainable agricultural practices, climate-sensitive technologies and practices and the nutritional value of locally available foods.

Teachers from seven selected schools were trained by SINGI CBO Resource Centre, an EOA centre, on the importance and practice of school gardens to improve child and adolescent nutrition, sourcing for inputs and involving the children in preparing the gardens.

This resulted to planting of various local vegetables such as spider plant, amaranth, vine spinach, jute mallow, slender leaf, black nightshade and African kales, as well as fruit trees such as avocado, jackfruit and passion fruit by schools in Busia's seven sub-counties - Teso North, Teso South, Nambale, Matayos, Butula, Samia and Bunyala..

Given the diversity of Busia County's landscapes, cultures, and food, assets and challenges, each school took its own approach to adopting the practice of school gardening

- Otimong Secondary School in Teso South planted trees to mitigate problems caused by flooding.
- In Samia Sub-County, Malanga Primary School has been harvesting and eating vegetables from their garden since May 2015.
- A young teacher from Amagoro Primary School in Teso North Sub-County engaged parents, students and staff in the school's new garden, and put her own business-sense into the project by selling the vegetables to the wider community. Parents are now buying nutritious leafy vegetables from the school. Profits are going towards garden inputs and school fees for pupils committed to the project as an award.
- In Bunyala Sub-County, St. Anne's Girls Secondary School started not only harvesting, but drying and preserving, leafy vegetables in May 2015 using traditional methods. Drying adds value to leafy vegetables, since it lengthens the shelf-life while preserving their nutritional value. Busia County is prone to long periods of drought and has



inadequate or nonexistent irrigation systems, and therefore preservation of leafy vegetables is an important activity that can enhance household food security.

- Currently, about 300 pupils from seven primary and secondary schools throughout Busia County are involved in preparing, planting, maintaining and harvesting for their school gardens.

A significant attribute of the BFN school gardens is that not only are they providing the school with nutritious food, but they are providing a safe learning space where pupils can observe and practice new climate-smart methods and technologies to sustainably grow healthy foods.

Simple EOA technologies change the fortunes of small scale farmers

Although the Western region of Kenya is one of the high agricultural potential areas, small scale farmers in that region don't produce enough from their farms due to the poor condition of their soils. The region is a high sugar producing zone and this agricultural enterprise is characterized by intensive usage of agrochemicals. This has had adverse effects on the soil fertility decreasing farm productivity for many small scale farmers engaged in sugar production.

Today, we share the story of one Mr. Jason Amukhule. Mr. Amukhule is a victim of the adverse effects from the intensive use of agrochemicals for sugarcane production. Due to continuous supply

and use of these agro-chemicals for sugarcane production, the quality of soils deteriorated in the region negatively affecting agricultural productivity.

Mr. Amukhule's farm was not spared either; he could no longer produce enough to feed his family. He started looking for solutions to bring his farm back to the high productivity lane. After a few experiments, he joined a farmer group by the name Makunga Tujenge Support Group which loosely means "let's build together". One of the groups affiliated to BvAT's farmer communication programme.

Besides engaging in self-supporting economic activities, the group received trainings on sustainable soil fertility management practices from BvAT. BvAT trained the farmer group on simple organic soil management practices such as composting from dry leaves, using farm yard manure and push and pull technologies.

Mr. Amukhule says since he joined the group, he dropped cane cultivation and adopted these technologies on other crops. He started cultivating maize, fruits and vegetables. Using the push pull technology on the maize, his harvest increased immensely. "I used to get one bag of maize from my one acre piece of land per season but since I started using the innovations we were taught in our group, I now harvest 15 bags of maize" says Amukhule.

Mr. Amukhule's story, is a story shared by many other farmers currently receiving trainings under the EOA supported FCP in Kakamega and Busia Counties in Kenya.



ECOLOGICAL best practices cont..

Small Scale Producers Make Their Way to International School of Kenya Organic Farmers' Market

For a very long time in Kenya, organic producers have been producing products but unable to differentiate them from the conventionally grown products. On the other hand the consumers have been looking for healthy and ecologically grown food in vain. Due to this gap KOAN has been working with the farmers and consumers to bridge the gap by creating linkages and market platforms.

The International School Farmers market is one of the Organic farmers market organized and supported by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) through the generous support of SSNC for the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) programme.

“The International School Farmers market was created to ensure the continued supply of fresh vegetables and fruits to the community of ISK, and the surrounding” explains Adrienne Donohue, the Market Manager.

The International School Farmers market is usually held at the International School playground the first and the last weekend every month of the school calendar.

“Peponi Estate like many up-market estates in Nairobi has been left out of the mainstream groceries and supermarket stores selling groceries and fresh vegetables and fruits, but people here need to eat and with all the health problems we are seeing these days people need to eat more healthy food” Ms. Donohue continues.

Selling fresh produce into the market is not only part of the plan; KOAN staff also organizes for Health Talks on the benefits of consuming organic foods to the school community.

“Know how to cook” is a live cooking demonstration programme also organized by the school and KOAN team to train pupils below 15 years how to cook, this is held during the last weekend of the school term. KOAN and International school usually invites a lead Chef as part of those activities to demonstrate and provide guidance for the cooking lessons.

International School Farmers market works with 30 local organic certified farmers to ensure quality and consistency in supply. The farmers have undergone the third party or Participatory Guarantee Systems Certification.

The farmers' market committee which comprises of KOAN staff, Producers, consumers and ISK staff also carries out on-farm visits to ensure they meet the certification standards, to assess each farmer's challenges and existing opportunities. The visits have strengthened the relationship between the producers and the consumers with some producers being introduced to supply high end restaurants, supermarkets and groceries. One of the consumers who is the Director of a five Star Hotel in Westlands has introduced some farmers to supply fresh produce to the hotel.

In the past 2 years Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) has trained TOTs, who have in turn trained farmers on Value chain development and Access to Market in Ecological Organic Agriculture.

Through the hard work of KOAN through innovative and creative strategies, Peponi residents and ISK community are getting the healthy food they need, and organic farmers have access to a unique market platform

For the farmers who take the marketing initiative together with the TOTs, KOAN trains them on pricing, packaging, value addition and product presentation to the high end consumers.

According to Patrick Njuguna one of major buyers who frequents the ISK Farmers' market, the organic products available are of high quality, clean and cost friendly. It is also his passion to buy food from a reliable source.

Mary Wambui a small scale organic vegetable producer selling through this market, has reported to have tripled her monthly sales.



EXPOSING WOMEN INNOVATORS TO BEST PRACTICES ON EOA

Did you know that women make up half of Africa's agricultural workforce overall, and more than half in several countries? And did you know that these African women, depending on where they're from, produce up to two-thirds less per unit of land than men?

It is against this backdrop that PELUM Kenya through the EOAI engaged women innovators from Kenya on a learning and exposure visit to PELUM Uganda.

10th to 11th December 2015 was a memorable period for 30 women innovators from PELUM Kenya membership. The successful moments saw 30 women innovators visit Uganda Ecological Organic Agriculture practices and income generating activities. The visit attained the following set objectives;

- Exposed women innovators to other successful Women groups engaging in Ecological Organic Agriculture and Income generating activities
- Provided an opportunity for learning and knowledge sharing on useful technologies applied by Women for livelihood improvement
- Increased knowledge base on Women on income generating activities opportunities

The women innovators visited individual successful farmers engaging in EOA and engaged in practical sessions on water harvesting, compost making and fruit tree grafting

Participants also had an experience sharing session with the Hunger project, more specifically on access to credit for the smallholder farmers.



Strong Governance Structures, More Partnerships, Better Results

During the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative pilot phase in 2012, the governance structures and systems for EOAI were too weak to support achievement of set objectives. The pilot phase also identified a number of challenges that were associated with the weak institutional governance of EOAI.

Owing to PELUM Kenya roles in coordinating the SSNC component in the Eastern Africa Region, systems and structures to guide EOAI planning, implementation and learning were put in place. Specifically, gender guidelines were developed to mainstream gender aspects in to EOAI. M&E guidelines were also developed and are currently guiding monitoring and implementation of the EOAI pillars to track progress and learn. The Eastern Africa steering committee was also formed and frequent meetings held to deliberate key EOAI agenda. The governance strategy for mainstreaming EOAI to include; national platforms, regional platforms, continental platforms and global platforms was also developed.

To date there has been an increase in new partnerships with EOAI. The ministries of Agriculture from the Eastern Africa Countries are part of EOAI Country specific national platforms which provide national strategic EOAI direction. The EOAI partners have been incorporated in the Eastern African regional blocks of EAC and IGAD. EOAI has also been anchored under the AU and the Eastern African region is a member of the EOAI continental steering committee. The Eastern Africa region was part of the development of the 10 year EOAI strategic plan spearheaded by the AU. Additionally, EOAI has been recognized by the Africa Food Sovereignty Alliance (AFFSA) and FAO through joint initiatives in Food Systems conference for 2016 and Agroecology for Sustainable Agriculture respectively..

Yes, strong governance structures have built on more partnerships which have and will contribute in the achievement of EOAI vision.





The Journey of Enlightenment! Trainers of Trainers Exposure visit and tour

During the inception of the EOA in 2012, it was identified that one key challenge was a lack of qualified multidiscipline resource professionals in EOA. This was also backed by insufficient presence of a curriculum that would be used to train such professionals for the benefit of revamping the EOA sector.

One of the strategies selected to overcome the above problem was through training at least 20 Trainers of Trainers in the subject of EOA. It was envisaged that the 20 TOTs would in future train others for purposes of replicability. The training programme was organized into 3 phases spread out within 3 years (2013-2015).

Exposure visit and tours formed part of the approach. One of the most successful exposure tours was one undertaken by 9 TOTs to the Alabama A&M University in the USA.

Through funding from EOA-SSNC supported programme and with additional support from SACDEP-Kenya, GLS Germany and AAMU, 9 of the 20 TOTs undertook a 4 week exposure visit to Alabama A&M University-USA. Activities involved 6 classroom lectures on Small Ruminants, Agro forestry, Rabbitry, Extension and Conflict Resolution. Site/Field visits were 18 in total and based on Crop production, Agro processing, Horticultural crops, Marketing, Energy, Extension organization, Water harvesting, Livestock, production and Nutrition, Access to Markets. Educational Workshops, Hands-on activities (Laboratory & Field Practical sessions) and engaged in informal interactions were also undertaken



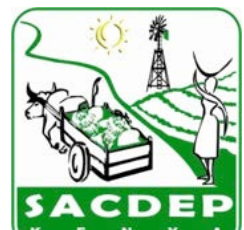
The Organic Farmers Market in Uganda

The Organic Farmer's Market has been established by NOGAMU to increase the local demand for organic products. Marketing for organic products previously was targeting the international market and there was little local market presence. The unique marketing elements needed were to make these markets exclusive and attractively different from the ordinary fresh produce markets around the city. So these markets are held at upmarket city malls that are managed by Night Frank, an international real estate management company. And the competitive strategy is that these markets are seen as social events platforms where buyers come to enjoy great shopping experiences at the mall, enjoy good coffee at the cafes, meet and network with other people, enjoy great cool music in the background, but also find organic products at these market arrangements.

The results are clear, they have seen an increase in the number of local consumers because through the communication and publicity by the EOA I&C pillar, more people especially the urban middle class have known about these markets and are overly interested in the products. The farmers too, many of them who are under PGS program, have access to ready local markets for their produce and they fetch premium prices because the markets target urban elites.

"We now have a reliable source of organic products that we can trust that they are organic because we trust NOGAMU. And we enjoy this shopping experience because we are able to do other activities at the mall" - Organic Consumer

COLLABORATING PARTNERS



Reliable, Logical Agriculture.





Networking for a greener Africa.

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