

**KEY RESULT AREAS OF THE ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE**


- EOA related knowledge along the agricultural value chain increasingly documented and various actors capacitated to translate it into practices and application.
- Producers systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by strengthened access to efficient advisory and support services.
- A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets achieved.
- Multi stakeholder platforms formed at the national regional and continental levels to influence positive changes in public policies and investment plans supporting EOA.



Countries (shaded green) where EOA I is being implemented.





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# Ecological Organic Agriculture

*Initiative for Africa*





**Biovision Africa Trust**



**EOA**  
ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

## THE CONTEXT



The Agricultural sector is critical to many African economies and it is one of the sustainable development drivers. However, unsustainable farming practices coupled with natural challenges such as; climate change, soaring human population, land degradation as well as pest and disease pandemics have hampered the sector's capacity to contribute to sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Africa. This condition is further exacerbated by inadequate institutional capacity for professional development, inadequate financial resources, inaccessible markets, and lack of access to adequate relevant information on available technologies and practices.



In light of these challenges and pursuant to the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government Decision on Organic Farming (Doc. EX.CL/631 (XVIII)), the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative was born. The decision required the African Union Commission (AUC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to initiate and provide guidance for an AU-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and to provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems.

The EOA Initiative portends solutions to the problems facing the agricultural systems in Africa. It is capable of sustaining the health of soils, ecosystems and people drawing on principles of ecology.

### VISION

Vibrant systems for ecological organic agriculture that enhance food security and sustainable development in Africa

### MISSION

Promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, marketing and policy making to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and guarantee food security.

### GROWTH OF EOA INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

The EOA Initiative is currently supported by two main development partners – the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) and Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC).

During the pilot phase in 2012, SSNC supported the initiative in six African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia and Nigeria) and SDC supported baseline studies in three West African Countries (Benin, Mali and Senegal).

Following the successful pilot phase, SSNC continues to support the initiative in four African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia) for the period 2013 - 2015, while, the SDC support is concentrated in eight countries; the four mentioned countries in East Africa and four West African countries (Benin, Senegal, Mali and Nigeria) for the period 2014 - 2018.



Coordination and support is provided by Biovision Africa Trust and PELUM-Kenya for SDC and SSNC contributions respectively. The initiative rolls out a demand-driven result-based implementable action programme for transformative ecologically organic agriculture in Africa along six strategic pillars.

### THE EOA STRATEGIC AREAS

**Research, Training and Extension (RTE):** This is responsible for understanding research and training gaps within the ecological organic agriculture value chains and undertaking activities to fill them. It embraces demand-driven, participatory, interdisciplinary, and multicultural research.

**Information and Communication (IC):** This pillar is complementary to the Research, Training and Extension pillar. It is charged with awareness creation and strengthening EOA extension support systems. It uses diverse information and communication strategies, products and technologies to share information on sustainable farming practices from researchers, farmers and extension agents in order to sensitize the general public and policy makers on the importance of Ecological Organic Agriculture.

**Value Chain and Market Development:** This pillar aims to stimulate development of sustainable markets and increase trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce both at domestic and export levels. Agriculture is a socially and economically crosscutting enterprise and therefore this pillar embraces a holistic approach in its interventions focusing on the whole value chains.

**Networking and Partnerships:** Promotion of EOA is a complex and multidisciplinary process that calls for engagement by relevant stakeholders including governments, farmers, civil society, private sector, and the international community. This pillar is mandated with sustaining such partnerships.

**Policy and Programme Development:** This pillar supports the development and implementation of enabling policies and programmes for EOA. This aims to support stakeholder platforms (agricultural extension agencies, policy making and implementation agencies, credit institutions, prospective agricultural markets, ICT centres, etc) to share knowledge and experiences, encourage formation of relevant policies to promote EOA.

**Institutional Capacity Development:** This pillar supports equipping of professionals with skills and competences to facilitate community-based innovation and change processes geared towards establishing, developing and supporting EOA in Africa.

Under the SDC Support, the last three pillars are consolidated into one pillar and collectively referred to as Steering, Coordination and Management

