

## Organic Agriculture Development in Uganda

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## Summary

- Background to organic sector devt. in Uganda
- Main actors/drivers to OA development in Uganda
- Critical Issues for further development of the sector

## Background

- OA is among the fastest growing subsectors in Uganda
- Formal (certified) OA started way back in 1993, as a response to unfolding market opportunities in Europe
  - Suitability and compatibility to smallholder farming systems
    - Closer to and utilizes most traditional farming practices
    - Relatively low risk ,given production and resource constraints
    - low market entry barriers compared to conventional fruits and vegetable exports
  - Increasing global demand for organic products and associated premium prices, contributing to improved household incomes in the rural communities

## Background cont'd.....

- Currently
  - Over 200,000 certified organic farmers (40,000 in 2004)
  - 36 certified export companies (12 in 2004)
  - Value of exports still small, but annually growing at more than 60% in the past 3 years
    - (US\$ 6m-2005, US\$10m -2006, US\$15.3 -2007, projection of US\$25- 30m by end of 2008)
  - A National organic certification body (Ugocert), in addition to 6 other international certifiers

## Main Drivers/Actors to OA development in Uganda

- Rapid development largely driven by trade
- A very well coordinated organic private sector (The founding of NOGAMU in 2001, that has united and coordinated all actions from all actors (producers, processors, exporters, NGOs etc)
- Favourable climate (weather and soils)
- Low use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides (1kg/ha per yr compared to sub Saharan average of 9kg/ha per yr.
- Enabling government policies

## Main Actors cont'd...

- Smallholder farmers
  - Over 95% of the organic farming population in Uganda are smallholder farmers
- Local and international NGOs
  - Mobilization of the smallholder farmers (building viable, focused groups)
  - Training of farmers on production, quality control and marketing aspects
  - Developing and establishing internal quality management (IQM) systems among the groups

- Market linkage and promotional services
- Lobbying and Advocacy for increased government and development partner support to organic sector
- Financing of above activities
- **Export Companies**
  - Buying organic produce from, and working with the smallholder farmers
  - Quite often directly providing similar services as the NGOs (except lobbying) to the smallholder farmers they work with.

- **Universities**
  - Degree and short certificate courses developed in organic agriculture
  - One of the Universities has started small scale research in Organic and commissioned a community outreach programmed to organic farmers
- **Parastatals (e.g. Uganda Export Promotions Board, and Uganda National Bureau of Standards)**
  - Active in promoting organic exports as area of competitive advantage for smallholder farmers
  - Participating in the local/regional organic standards development processes with the industry
  - Active partner in establishing Centre of Excellence for organic

- **Government (e.g. Ministries )**
  - Ministry of Agriculture in Uganda is developing policy on organic agriculture together with all key stakeholders
  - Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI), has been very active and supportive in all processes of promoting exports
- **International development partners**
  - Financing OA devt. Programmes; UNCTAD/UNEP, SIDA (EPOPA), ITC, HIVOS, IFOAM, etc

## Critical Issues for Further Development of the sector

- Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Organic Movement to lead and coordinate all Private actors
- Direct interventions to bottlenecks of entire value chains (Value chain approach), with focus to both the export and local/regional markets
- Strategic focus on research into organic friendly technologies and solutions
- Need to finalize on the OA policy to mainstream and support organic production and trade.



## OA policy process

- Policy already cleared by top management of MAAIF for nationwide stakeholder consultation
- MAAIF already secured resources for regional consultations
- Funding gap for Final presentation in national workshop, discussions in late stages with international partners willing to support
- Policy out by end of year

## Centre of Excellence (CoE)

- Mooted by Public and private stakeholders after launching the EAOPS
- Discussions and concept streamlined by lead public and private sector bodies: UEPB (MTTI), MAAIF, NOGAMU, UMU
- Identified institution to host CoE
- Process of formulating and signing an MoU between above institutions in final stages
- Donor conference for operationalising CoE planned around august 2008



*Thank you for your attention*