



SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA





***SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA***

Report Commissioned by IFOAM
Authored by Kristen Lyons and David Burch
Griffith University

Published in Germany by IFOAM.

© IFOAM, April 2007

Die Deutsche Bibliothek – CIP Cataloguing-in-Publication-Data

A catalogue record for this publication is available from Die Deutsche Bibliothek

ISBN-13 978-3-934055-85-8

Printed copies of this publication may be ordered via the IFOAM website at www.ifoam.org.

A download of the complete publication is available via the IFOAM web shop for a fee of 5 Euros.

Price: *Printed copy – 9 Euros, CD Rom – 7 Euros*

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Abbreviation	5
Acknowledgements	6
Executive Summary	7
INTRODUCTION	9
1. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ON A GLOBAL SCALE	11
2. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA	13
2.1 Scale and Drivers for Organic Production	13
2.2 Comparative Country Case Study	15
2.2.1 Egypt	16
2.2.2 Uganda	16
2.2.3 Kenya	17
2.2.4 Ghana	18
2.3 Researching With Farmers in Africa	18
3. IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UPTAKE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA	20
3.1 Entry into Organic Agriculture and Impacts for Farm Incomes	20
3.2 Organic Agriculture Expands Market Opportunities	23
3.2.1 International Trade in Organic Produce	24
3.2.2 The Domestic Market for Organic Produce	25
3.3 Empowering Farmers and Building Communities	26
3.4 Building Healthy Families and Healthy Communities	29
3.5 Organic Farming Sustaining Environments	30
4. COMPARING THE TRENDS IN AFRICAN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE	31

5. RECOMMENDATIONS	34
6. REFERENCES	36

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ANDEA	Africa Network for Development of Ecological Agriculture
CSE	Cooperative of SEKEM Employees
EPOPA	Export Promotion of Organic Products Africa
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
GOAN	Ghana Organic Agriculture Network
GOPDC	Ghana Oil Palm Development Company
ICS	Internal Control System
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
KIOF	Kenya Institute of Organic Farming
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
NGOs	Non Government Organisations
NOGAMU	National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
SDF	SEKEM Development Foundation
SIDA	Swedish International Development Authority
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was commissioned by IFOAM to further understanding of the developing organic sector in Africa. The research team would like to thank IFOAM for the financial and institutional support to undertake this research. We also extend our gratitude to farmers and farm workers from Egypt, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda who generously agreed to participate in this research. We would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Mr. Samuel Adimado and Ms. Ivy Ahun from the Ghana Organic Agriculture Network, Mr. Godsway MacBright from Africa Network on Development of Ecological Agriculture, Ms. Emilie Vicart from Agro Eco, Dr. Yousef Hamdi from the Egyptian Centre for Organic Agriculture, Mr. M. Khalil from the Royal For Herbs Company, Dr. Tawfik Hafez Abd El Moity from the Central Laboratory of Organic Agriculture, Mr. Mohamed El-Medany of the Fayoum Agro Organic Development Centre, Dr. Osama Khier El-Din from the Union of Producers and Exporters of Horticultural Crops, Mr. Salah Hegazy from the AgroFood Company, Professor Zakaria El-Haddad from the Egyptian Biodynamic Association, Ms. Hagar Rakha from North South Consultants Exchange, Mr. Bakri, Mr. Karim, Mr. Hamid, Moses Kiggundu Muwanga and Kugonza Irene from the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda, Alastair Taylor from the Export Promotion of Organic Products Africa, Gulzar and Amin Shivji, Ssebunya Brian, Ssebukumirizi Muiwansano and Peter Bukenya from Amfri Farms, Charles Walaga from UgoCert, Roy Lugone and Michael Cheorop from Kawacom, David Ssemwogerere and the Agency for Environment and Wetlands team, Emmanuel Mpora, as well as Ms. Eva Kimani, Mr. John Waweru, Mr. John Manyasi and Ms. Polly Wachira who all provided assistance related to the research in Kenya. We would also like to thank Dr. Monica Seini for her editorial assistance.

Dr Kristen Lyons conducted research for this report in Uganda and Ghana, while Professor David Burch completed the research in Egypt. These researchers are based at Griffith University in Australia. In Kenya, Ngugi Mutura undertook research. Mutura is Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Program, chairperson of the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network and member of IFOAM. The research team took photographs included in this report. In addition, we would like to thank Samantha Neal from the University of Queensland in Australia who provided additional photographs of the Kamuli women in Uganda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contemporary agriculture and food systems are associated with a range of social and environmental problems, such as food insecurity, land degradation, water pollution, health hazards, etc. These problems are particularly acute in African nations, where food insecurity and malnutrition is widespread, and where many farmers have experienced declining crop yields due to drought, desertification and salinity.

The expansion of Organic Agriculture represents one strategy to address these challenges. Organic Agriculture is widely supported for its capacity to achieve a food secure and environmentally sustainable Africa. This report documents the recent rapid expansion of Organic Agriculture in Africa. By providing in-depth insights from four selected countries – Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda – this report showcases the specific experiences of farm families and surrounding communities engaged in organic farming. Drawing from interviews with women and men organic farmers as well as representatives from NGOs, government departments and industry, the results presented in this report demonstrate a range of positive social and economic impacts. These results indicate conversion to Organic Agriculture has enabled farmers to realize: increased incomes and secure market access; improvements in their family's health; increased access to food; improved access to education and vital health care services; improvements in the health of farm environments; alongside the empowerment of local communities. In short, the impacts associated with conversion to Organic Agriculture have the capacity to establish sustainable livelihoods for African farm families and their communities.

At the same time, there are clearly issues that need to be considered if African farmers and communities are to reap all the benefits which Organic Agriculture could provide. As such, this report concludes with a series of recommendations to support ongoing expansion of Organic Agriculture in Africa.

INTRODUCTION

Background

There are too many chemicals in our food and in the environment. We need to change the way we live on the earth, there is a need for us to practice organic farming now (organic oil palm producer, Ghana).

It is now widely recognized that modern chemical intensive farming techniques are linked with some of the world's most challenging environmental problems (Pretty, 2005). Deforestation, erosion of the world's biodiversity and chemical pollution are all, at least in part, attributable to modern systems of agriculture and food production, and these environmental challenges are predicted to intensify alongside climate change (UNEP, 2007). At the same time, farm incomes continue to fall, forcing many farming families from the land, and exacerbating the social problems in rural communities (Behera, 2006). And despite decades of efforts to achieve food security, nearly one billion people remain hungry or malnourished (Rosset *et al.*, 2000). These environmental and social challenges associated with food provisioning are nowhere more apparent than among African nations, where the majority of populations are directly engaged in farming activities.

Organic Agriculture represents one of many alternative farming systems that has emerged in response to these ecological and social challenges. Internationally, the organic food industry is expanding, with growth of between 20 and 40 percent each year and sales in organic products approaching US\$25 billion (Sahota, 2004). The global South represents a burgeoning site for organic production, with around two thirds of new entrants to organics being located in countries of the South (Parrott and Marsden, 2002). A number of African nations have experienced significant growth in organic production and the uptake of organic farming principles. The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) has supported the expansion of Organic Agriculture in countries of the South for many years through its "IFOAM – Growing Organic" (I-GO) Program, and in 2004 established an African office to help promoting Organic Agriculture in Africa and support the African organic movement.

Aims and Objectives

This report was commissioned by IFOAM, and aims to document the uptake of Organic Agriculture across Africa, and to evaluate the socio-economic benefits for farmers and surrounding communities. The five aims of this report are to:

- Provide a general overview of the expanding organic sector in Africa;
- Undertake an in-depth case study analysis of farm families in four selected countries;
- Identify the social, economic and ecological impacts of conversion to Organic Agriculture

for farmers in the selected countries;

- Undertake a comparative analysis of the experiences of organic farmers; and
- Make recommendations about future research and advocacy directions for IFOAM and related organizations.

Structure of the Report

This report is presented in three sections. Firstly, it begins with a background to the expansion of Organic Agriculture at an international level, and then provides a general overview of the developments occurring in Organic Agriculture on the African continent. This discussion draws primarily from prior literature and research findings. The second part of this report comprises the substantive contribution of this research. Drawing from farmers' experiences in four selected countries – Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda – this report documents the socio-economic impacts associated with participation in the Organic Agriculture movement. Findings presented here draw from in-depth interviews with a non-random selection of women and men organic farmers, as well as representatives from non-government and government organizations and industry representatives. Results presented showcase the socio-economic impacts associated with the uptake of organic farming techniques and the entry into certified organic production. Thirdly, this report concludes by offering a series of recommendations that may assist the on-going development of Organic Agriculture in Africa.