



THE 2ND NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

"Accelerating Ecological Organic Agriculture Uptake for Sustainable Food Systems"

Dodoma, 21-22 October 2021



Conference Report





2ND NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE

Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with Agriculture Stakeholders and Development Partners present the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference, with a theme **“Accelerating Ecological Organic Agriculture Uptake for Sustainable Food Systems”**



Venue:

St. Gaspar Conference Centre, **Dodoma**

To Register:

<https://conference.ammi.co.tz/>



The 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference
“Accelerating Ecological Organic Agriculture Uptake for Sustainable Food Systems”
 Dodoma, 21-22 October 2021

Conference Report

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1. Introduction and Objectives

Introduction

Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in collaboration with agriculture stakeholders and development partners including UN-FAO, SWISSAID Tanzania, Sokoine University, Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT), TABIO, PELUM, The French Embassy, Iles de Paix (IDP) and St. Joseph Sustainable Organic Farm organized the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference which took place at St. Gasper Conference Hotel in Dodoma from the 19th and 20th October, 2021.



The Minister for Agriculture (3rd left), FAO Country Representative, TOAM CEO and other stakeholders talking to EOA exhibitors during the 2019 NEOAC

This conference followed the first successful organic agriculture conference which took place in 2019 bringing together more than 300 participants from the country and abroad from the public sector, the private sector, civil society, academia, farmers and media. The 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference was guided by the theme "*Accelerating Ecological Organic Agriculture Uptake for Sustainable Food Systems*".

The conference had **378 participants**, which included farmers, agriculture experts and researchers, policymakers, civil society organizations and practitioners, agriculture (including organic) businesses and entrepreneurs, development partners and media coming from the Tanzania mainland, Zanzibar, from within East Africa Community Member states, Africa and others international participants. We also had 124 online participants through special conference links, Facebook, Zoom, YouTube link and Twitter mostly due to Covid 19 travel restrictions.

The 2019 National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference aimed at creating further awareness on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA), encompassing organic agriculture and agroecology, among policymakers and key stakeholders. The conference was officiated by the then Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Japhet Hasunga (MP).

In line with the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I), the African Union Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Africa Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the key conference output was a Call for Action "2019 EOA Stakeholders Call for Action", calling among others:

- To mainstream EOA in the agriculture policies and plans, to adopt in the National Agriculture Policy a broad understanding of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) which goes beyond certification, commerce, and export to include broader agroecological principles and further integrate small-scale farmers;
- To support and further promote Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS), indigenous seeds, and availability of organic seeds in the agriculture policies, plans, and practices of Tanzania,
- To establish a full directorate on EOA at the Ministry of Agriculture which among other things will monitor the scaling up of Ecological Organic Agriculture and allocate more resources and prioritize research on Ecological EOA for achieving sustainable and resilient farming system.

This report outlines the discussions and outcomes of the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference, which took place in Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania October 21st - 22nd, 2021.

Objectives

The purpose of the second National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference was to provide a space and the opportunity for EOA stakeholders to share, analyse, and provide feedback on good practices that accelerate ecological organic agriculture uptake for sustainable food systems.

The 2nd NEOAC aimed at catalysing existing initiatives and processes to further move EOA from dialogue to actions and results at the country level by providing a platform for relevant information sharing and experiences, while discussing policies and actions that can support EOA in achieving the SDGs.

The conference programme took up key topics deep diving into accelerating ecological organic agriculture uptake for sustainable food systems including: Seeds and Agriculture Inputs; EOA farming practices and performance; And markets for organic produce as well as aspects of knowledge creation, sharing and dissemination.

During plenaries and workshop sessions over the two days of the conference, participants addressed four areas that the stakeholders, through the “**Call For Action**”, have highlighted as crucial for the acceleration of ecological organic agriculture uptake for sustainable food systems:

Seeds and Agriculture Inputs - participants felt the need for a review of the Seeds Act (2003) so as to take into consideration the recognition and support of Farmer Managed Seed System. Also, in collaboration with EOA Stakeholders and farmers there is a need to support the preservation, improvement, multiplication and promotion of indigenous/local seeds and availability of organic seeds, notably through community seed banks and seed fairs.

EOA Farming Practices and Performance is increasingly visible, both within and outside of Tanzania and in all corners of the world. Hence participants called for a collaboration to conduct continuous training on ecological organic agriculture to agronomists, extension officers and smallholder farmers and capacitate the Bihawana Farmer Training Center to become a center of excellence for EOA under the Ministry of Agriculture.



Markets for Organic Produce - Participants noted a need to strengthen linkages of EOA farmers with markets, raise awareness across consumers, traders and producers about the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS), strengthen organic certification system and make it accessible and affordable to many farmers to be able to reach local and international markets.

Knowledge creation, sharing and dissemination - quality information on EOA should be equally accessible to, and inclusive of all: Hence a need for an enhanced EOA research and dissemination of research findings including on key topics such as seeds, soil fertility, plant health and specific EOA technologies in a language that is clear and friendly to smallholder farmers.

Participants, Speakers, Moderators & Panelists

Participants

A total of 502 (378 physically, 124 virtually) people participated the conference: this includes 105 guests from the Central Government, Local Government and government agencies from both, Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar; 108 farmers and farmer organization representatives; 33 from CBOs, NGOs and iNGOs; 16 from agriculture companies; 4 from private research organizations; 24 media practitioners; 53 development partners; 14 speakers; And 21 technical (AMMI Support) team.

Category	No. of Participants
Public Sector	105
Farmers	108
CBOs, NGOs and iNGOs	33
Farming / Agriculture Companies	16
Research	4
Media	24
Speakers	14
Development Partners	53
Technical (AMMI) Team	21
Total	378

Keynote Speakers

Three keynote speakers inspired participants during the conference; they were Prof. Dismas Mwaseba from the Sokoine University of Agriculture; Dr. Angelika Hilbeck from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and Institute of Integrative Biology IBZ; Mr. Brian Bogart from the World Food Programme (WFP) Tanzania; And Ms. Ayesiga Buberwa from the Iles de Paix of Arusha, Tanzania.

The speakers critically discussed on the theme for the Second National Ecological Organic Agriculture which was “*accelerating ecological organic agriculture uptake for sustainable food systems*” which set a pace for the conference as a preparation of the two days conference deliberations.

From the government, Mr. Beatus Malema who is the Deputy Director in the Department of Crop Development but also responsible for Seeds and Organic Agriculture also made his remarks on the theme in relation to what the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture aims to accomplish in collaboration with the EOA stakeholders.

Panelists & Moderators

The Opening Plenary - Review of the 2019 Call For Action

The opening panel was reviewing progress made so far from the first NEOA Conference in 2019- was moderated by Austin Makani (Founder and CEO, AMM Investment). The panelists were: Mr. Beatus Malema from the Ministry of Agriculture; Mr. Bakari Mongo the CEO of Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM); Ms. Cecile Frobert Head of Economic Cooperation the Embassy of France in Tanzania; Mr. Blaise Burnier SWISSAID Country Director; Ms. Janet Maro CEO of Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT); and Prof. Kalunde Sibuga from the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)

Thematic Parallel Sessions

The thematic parallel sessions were moderated by well versed individuals in relations to their topics as follows: Seeds and Agriculture inputs was moderated by Mr. Abdallah Mkindi of TABIO; EOA Farming Practices and Performance by Mr. Bakari Mongo of TOAM; Markets for Organic Produce by Ms. Janet Maro of SAT and Knowledge Creation, Sharing and Dissemination by Ms. Rehema Fidelis of PELUM.

The discussants on the four plenary sessions came from the following organizations / individuals:

THEMATIC AREA	DISCUSSANTS
SEEDS AND AGRICULTURE INPUTS	Ministry of Agriculture, TOSCI, Pyrethrum Board and IDP
EOA FARMING PRACTICES AND PERFORMANCE	Ministry of Agriculture, SJS Organic Farm, UN-FAO, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture (Zanzibar) and Dr. Angelika Hilbeck
MARKETS FOR ORGANIC PRODUCE	Ministry of Agriculture, I am Organic, Elven Agri BIOSUSTAIN / ALLIANCE, ARANGA and KEJ Traders
KNOWLEDGE CREATION, SHARING AND DISSEMINATION	Ministry of Agriculture, TARI Uyole, SUA / SAT FLORESTA, Bihawana Institute and PPI Zanzibar



2. Conference Outcomes & Recommendations

The key note addresses, panel discussions and parallel sessions on each day of the conference addressed the four sub-topics that made up the conference theme. These were Seeds and Agriculture inputs, EOA Farming Practices and Performance, Markets for Organic Produce and Knowledge Creation, Sharing and Dissemination.

On the afternoon of the second day of the conference, the Chairman of the Steering Committee who is also the Deputy Director at the Ministry of Agriculture in the Crop Development Department Mr. Beatus Malema, shared a brief outline of the key conference outcomes (Call for Action) that emerged from the parallel workshop sessions during the first day of the conference. Participants in each of the four workshops were asked to identify and agree on key priorities during their discussions; these are presented in detail in the sections below.

The following key conference recommendations are based on the recurring priorities identified by conference participants. These recommendations will be shared with the Conference who is the Deputy Minister of Agriculture Honorable Hussein Bashe (MP) and shared across different stakeholders for taking the conference outcomes forward to the 3rd national Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference (Scheduled for 2023):

Recommendations (CALL FOR ACTION)

- Establish a Unit to oversee and support Ecological Organic Agriculture;
- To set a budget in the coming financial year 2022 / 2023 and the following financial years for the purpose of advancing Ecological Organic Agriculture in the country;
- In collaboration with EOA Stakeholders to finalize the drafting of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy 2022-2027 (NEOAS) and coordinate its implementation;
- Review the Seeds Act (2003) so as to take into consideration the recognition and support of Farmer Managed Seed System;
- In collaboration with EOA Stakeholders and farmers to support the preservation, improvement, multiplication and promotion of indigenous/local seeds and availability of organic seeds, notably through community seed banks and seed fairs;
- In collaboration with EOA Stakeholders to conduct continuous training on ecological organic agriculture to agronomists, extension officers and smallholder farmers and capacitate the Bihawana Farmer Training Center to become a center of excellence for EOA under the Ministry of Agriculture;
- Incorporate Ecological Organic Agriculture research in the national agricultural research agenda;
- Enhance EOA research and dissemination of research findings including on key topics such as seeds, soil fertility, plant health and specific EOA technologies in a language that is clear and friendly to smallholder farmers;
- Strengthen linkages of EOA farmers with markets, raise awareness across consumers, traders and producers about the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS), strengthen organic certification system and make it accessible and affordable to many farmers to be able to reach local and international markets;
- Promote the consumption of organic agriculture products;
- Fundraise for the purpose of promoting ecological organic agriculture technologies through relevant platforms;
- The government to include ecological organic agriculture in the district agricultural development plans;
- TOAM to organize and lead the Ecological Organic Agriculture Forum.

3. Conference Proceedings

Opening Ceremony



Dr. Mwatima Juma (Chairperson Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement-TOAM), welcomed participants to the second National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference. She started by asking participants to observe a minute of silence for those in the organic movement who have passed on since the 1st National Organic Agriculture Conference including the former TOAM CEO Mr. Jordan Gama. She mentioned other organic champions including Mr. Juma Ali Juma, Mr. Hugo and also Mr. Martin Mhando who had worked for SJS Organic Farm. She also remarked this being the second National Organic Agriculture Conference which is a continuation of the first conference which took place in Dodoma in 2019.

She thanked participants for their keen interest to seeing ecological organic agriculture takes shape in Tanzania. She also specifically thanked Honorable Hussein Bashe (MP) the Deputy Minister of Agriculture who was the chief guest of honor. She thanked Honorable Dr. Soud the Minister for Agriculture (Zanzibar), Simuyu Regional Commissioner Honorable Kafulila and Mwanga District Commissioner Honorable Abdallah Mwaipaya. She thanks development partners present including Ambassadors of France, Belgium, European Union Head of Mission, respective heads of UN Agencies, representatives from Diplomatic Missions, Directors from the Public and Private Sectors, Farmers and media representatives.

She further remarked the importance of ecological organic agriculture which include protection of environment, health of the farmers and consumers, boosts country's economy, suitable in responding to climate change, value addition and that they contribute to attracting tourists who want to visit and eat natural foods.

In closing Dr. Mwatima pointed out that deliberations from this conference will among others, focus on pertinent issues of land, water, agriculture, education, etc. and that the two days if used effectively would provide the best way forward for the development of EOA initiatives in Tanzania.

Remarks by Ambassadors

The Belgian Ambassador to Tanzania expressed his joy after seeing such a response of people actively engaged in ecological organic agriculture. He commended the Government on the efforts to promote organic agriculture in Tanzania. The French Ambassador to Tanzania commended the efforts which are being implemented in Tanzania to promote ecological organic agriculture. The head of Delegation for the European Union congratulated all stakeholders present and stressed on the significance of ecological organic agriculture and that European Union is ready and available to support such initiatives. He remarked that the two days of the conference will provide a good direction for EOA initiatives in the country.

Remarks by District Commissioner

Honorable Abdallah Mwaipaya, the Mwanza District Commissioner started his remarks by recognising all conference participants. He said that he has been a big fan of EOA for sometime and even while working for the media (Radio One and ITV) he used to produce and host programmes with similar content. He also said that his District is promoting EOA through SJS organic farm which brings together farmers for agricultural activities in that district.



Remarks by Regional Commissioner

On his part, the Simiyu Regional Commissioner Honorable David Kafulila was well pleased with the turn up of participants and EOA stakeholders at the conference. He said Simiyu Region produces more than 60% of cotton organically. He remarked that the conference is of great importance to all those participating.

Remarks by the Zanzibar Minister of Agriculture

Honorable Dr. Soud Hassan (MHoR), the Minister of Agriculture of Zanzibar started his remarks by acknowledging the presence of all the stakeholders at the conference. He said that farmers in Zanzibar produce their products more than 60% organically. He stated that organic farming includes the production of spices and vegetables. He added that his Ministry had set aside a budget for the year 2022/2023 to promote ecological organic agriculture in Zanzibar.



To introduce the chief guest for his remarks.

Mr. Beatus Malema who is the acting Director in the Crop Development Department who was also the chairman of the steering (organising) committee but also, the person responsible for promotion of EOA activities in Tanzania started by thanking all participants for coming. He said that the first conference was held in 2019 and that the Ministry of Agriculture has seven priorities for the year 2021/2022 for the purpose of promoting efficiency and crops production.

He mentioned those priorities being strengthening seed production, research, agronomy services, irrigational farming, availing capital (loans) for those aspiring to venture into the sector, markets and modern farming practices. He urged farmers to consider EOA to protect the health of the consumers, employment and markets for organic produce. He then invited the guest of honor for his speech.

Inaugural Speech

Honorable Hussein Bashe (MP) Deputy Minister of Agriculture congratulated all the EOA Stakeholders for turning up in numbers at the conference. He remarked that the year when the cotton price plunged, the farmers from Meatu District doing organic cotton got a very good price for their cotton than those not practicing organic agriculture. He added that he also is a stakeholder in organic agriculture since he keeps livestock and he prefers indigenous seeds for the fooder crops.

As he opened the conference, Honorable Bashe (MP) made the following commitments:

- The Ministry will make a department to promote EOA initiatives.
- The Ministry to set aside a budget in the financial year 2022/2023 for the promotion of EOA initiatives.
- The Research Institute (TARI) will continue to do researches on EOA; and later be disseminated to farmers.
- The ministry to establish seed banks. Indigenous seeds will be cleaned and preserved and later distributed to farmers.



He then added that organically produced crops attract premium pricing as compared to conventional farming products hence it is an opportunity for Tanzanian farmers to grasp. He thanks the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) for establishing a seeds bank for organic agriculture which is situated in Morogoro, Tanzania. He encouraged them to continue preserving those seeds and be distributed to all farmers in the country. He urged the research centres to continue with researches especially of the use of pyrethrum powder which is essential in the preservation of crops.

Honorable Bashe (MP) directed the district councils across the country to have strategies to promote and commended EOA, indigenous and other traditional seeds will be cleaned, reserved and distributed to the farmers. He thanked the stakeholders who are working tirelessly to promote EOA in the country and pledged that the government is ready to promote EOA initiatives. He reiterated on the opportunities available including a statement “the future is organic”

After saying this, he opened the conference.

Introduction to EOA Initiatives in Tanzania

The SWISSAID Country Director Mr. Blaise Burnier thanked Honorable Hussein Bashe (MP) the Deputy Minister of Agriculture for his inaugural remarks and his profound intentions to promote EOA initiatives in the country. He reiterated the significance of EOA in protecting soil health, increased productivity, markets and employment. He also said that there are a couple of challenges facing EOA which include unavailability of agriculture inputs such as bio fertilizers and pesticides, seeds and reliable market for organic produce.

Mr. Burnier also remarked that in the efforts of promoting EOA initiatives in the country those challenges must be addressed. He said the EOA initiatives are supported in over 94 countries worldwide including Tanzania. He said the good relationship between SWISSAID and Tanzania has continued to sprout promotion and development of EOA initiatives in the country.

Further, Mr. Burnier mentioned about the evolution of EOA by saying that promotion of organic agriculture started over 40 years ago, and here in Tanzania the promotions are coordinated by Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) and that within East African Countries, these initiatives started in the year 2000.

In 2007, principles of Ecological Agriculture were launched, and in 2011, policy on EOA was enacted. Further, the Agriculture policy of 2013 has mentioned about organic agriculture. In Zanzibar, organic agriculture policy was enacted in 2020. Major projects were established worldwide which adhere to the 10 Principles of Organic Agriculture.

He concluded by citing an example of organic cotton from Tanzania being the 5th in production globally complying to organic agriculture practices.



Opening Plenary (2019 Call for Action Update)



The Director for Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) Ms. Janet Maro started by presenting the nine (09) Call for Action of the 2019 National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference. These resolutions included:

- To mainstream and institutionalize Ecological Organic Agriculture in the agriculture policies, programs and practices in Tanzania. In particular to adopt in the existing and potential review of the National Agriculture Policy a broad understanding of Ecological Organic Agriculture and the ten elements of agroecology
- Further promote and scale-up initiatives and achievements, which include establishing ecological organic farming centers with one recently declared by the Permanent Secretary at Bihawana farmers' Training Centre and Knowledge Hubs facilitated by SUA and TOAM for scaling up participatory action research, and farmers centered research and extension on Ecological Organic Agriculture in Tanzania.
- Further, promote the Ecological Organic Agriculture Curriculum and courses in Schools, Universities and all the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institutes.
- To facilitate a platform for ecological organic value chain actors that informs on progress, opportunities and challenges for furthering industrialization and prosperity agenda; In particular, form a National Team of Specialists/experts composed of multi-stakeholders to advise and oversee the development of EOA in Tanzania.
- To develop a National ecological organic agriculture strategy/plan, performance evaluation tool and budget. Particularly, institutionalize a directorate of ecological Organic Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture.
- To revitalize and further promote Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS), indigenous/local seeds and availability of ecological organic seeds and inputs including scaling up of Quality Declared Seeds (QDS). In particular, to include these in the Seed Act and a clear guideline for the preservation of genetic resources as per the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- Support further development, availability and access to ecological organic inputs, packaging, registration, licensing and farmer-managed seed system.
- To facilitate access to regional and international certification for organically produced products and therefore develop exportation of Ecological Organic Agriculture products.
- To allocate in the national budget and lead in resource mobilization with development partners on Ecological Organic Agriculture for achieving sustainable development goals and climate-resilient agroecosystems.



After she had read, she explained on how [Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania \(SAT\)](#) has implemented some of those resolutions. She said since 2019 SAT has implemented many things despite the 2019 Covid pandemic challenges which had impacted their operations. She said that SAT has donated ICT equipment which enable students to learn online to 29 institutions including tertiary institutions. She also mentioned that SAT has been able to prepare a curriculum on organic agriculture, cooperatives, communication and environment whereby, already 240 stakeholders have been trained using that curriculum.

Ms. Maro also informed the conference participants that SAT has built field classes in 16 learning institutions and still building more in other institutions. Ms. Maro also reported that they have prepared and shared six (06) handouts from the curriculum they have developed which are completed and await their officiation. The objective is to build capacity for organic agriculture stakeholders in Same District especially in dispute resolutions related issues.

Further, Ms. Maro said that SAT has enabled the establishment of Cooperative Unions for spices which are in Morogoro and through these, they have been able to train 120 agronomists. Also SAT in collaboration with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) has conducted 73 researched on organic agriculture which will assist in addressing farmers challenges.

In conclusion, Ms. Maro remarked that SAT has established a seed bank for indigenous seeds in Morogoro and has participated in the preparation of the national Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy which is still in its initial stages.



[Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement \(TOAM\)](#) CEO Mr. Bakari Mongo stated that the inaugural speech by Honorable Hussein Bashe (MP) the Deputy Minister of Agriculture is a solution to challenges facing organic agriculture in Tanzania. He said, during the implementation of the Call for Action for 2019 TOAM has registered 139 farmer groups in spices, vegetables, fruits and leguminous crops. Those groups are found in Mtwara, Dodoma, Arusha, Morogoro and Zanzibar.

TOAM also has certified two organic outlets one in Morogoro and one in Dar es Salaam. TOAM has promoted the production of QDS in sunflower at Chamwino District, Dodoma.

Professor Kallunde Sibuga of [Sokoine University of Agriculture \(SUA\)](#) in implementing the Call for Action 2019, SUA has continued to provide training on organic agriculture to students and farmers. The varsity has curriculum for organic agriculture for over 10 years before 2019. Also SUA has continued to send students to Uganda on annual basis to learn on organic agriculture and to date, they have already sent 30 students.

On the other hand, SUA collaborated with other partners and stakeholders and has improved its doctorate programme. 14 students have enrolled and are continuing with their research on organic agriculture related researches. She concluded by also mentioning presence of short-term courses suitable for farmers.



Ms. Cecile Frobert from the [Embassy of France in Tanzania](#) started by telling the participants how the usage and application of chemicals in agriculture have caused cancers that led to death of farmers and innocent children. She mentioned that she is also a victim since she lost her father of cancer. For now, France has declared war against the use of chemicals through promotion of organic agriculture for the past seven (07) years. France has enacted a policy on organic agriculture so as to protect the soil, health of consumers and environment.

Further, Ms. Frobert urged among other things to change is the perception and mindsets in agriculture so as to avoid possible consequences which may arise due to application of chemicals during farming. She concluded noting that there is an opportunity now for most African countries to produce crops without the use of industrial chemicals or invest heavily on these chemicals.



The [SWISSAID](#) Country Director Mr. Blaise Burnier reported on their side they have been working and promoting organic agriculture in Mtwara, Lindi and Coastal regions where they have been working directly with farmers and agriculture officers in spreading organic agriculture practices and technologies. He mentioned that they work on agricultural crops, markets and governance. Also SWISSAID assisted in searching for markets by connecting organic agriculture farmers with markets. Mr. Burnier concluded by mentioning their collaboration with Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) on research related to the application of bio pesticides and other organic inputs.

Finally, Mr. Beatus Malema from the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) said on their side since 2019 they have accomplished the following:

- The ministry has collaborated with the EOA stakeholders in the review of the Agriculture Policy.
- The ministry has improved the Bihawana Centre of Excellence which is in Dodoma and was set aside for EOA studies.
- The ministry to continue to coordinate reviews on EOA Policy
- The ministry to continue on researches on organic agriculture products.
- Certification processes will be improved through different organizations working under the guidance of the Ministry.

He concluded by urging all district agricultural officers in the country to continue to continue to promote organic agriculture initiatives which includes providing guidance to the farmers. On QDS he invited members to seize the opportunity to produce and distribute in their localities since there are no major restrictions as those related to multiplication of seeds in the formal settings. To date, the government has a seed bank for indigenous seeds in Arusha region.



Second Plenary (Accelerating EOA Uptake for Sustainable Food Systems)

A representative from the [Tanzania Research Institute Selian](#) started by explaining the mandates of their research center and that they conduct researches in many aspects of organic agriculture. The center continues to promote the usage and application of local fertilizers such as compost and manure. The centre also continued to collect and select indigenous seeds including those of vegetables and spices which are being preserved by farmers. These seeds will be distributed to farmers for the next five (05) years.

The [Ministry of Agriculture of Zanzibar](#) has continued to cooperate with private initiatives and development stakeholders so as to discuss and resolve challenges facing organic agriculture and farmers. In the year 2022/23 Ministry of Agriculture will promote organic agriculture in the value chains of different products. They also pledged to prepare and manage the execution of the Organic Agriculture Policy.

Ms. Yesiga of [IDP](#) (Arusha) explained that their organization which is Belgian in origin and is based in Arusha region gives education to farmers on how to prepare the seeds and means for preserving them before their multiple production. Ecological Organic Agriculture stakeholders expressed that IDP which is situated in Arusha continues to strengthen and promotion of ecological agriculture through extracting seeds' DNA for preservation in the national seeds' bank.

Ms. Yesiga also said that IDP conducts training to farmers on preservation of indigenous seeds and that to date there are more than eight (08) indigenous seeds at Karatu District and that they are ready to work with the government to establish the national seeds bank for the purpose of preserving the seeds.

Also, following the food requirements (produce without having prepared with chemicals), IDP continues to provide training to farmers on crops diversification for sustainability purposes. Also IDP will continue to strengthen and promote farmers with markets for organic agriculture produces.

[Sokoine University of Agriculture](#) (SUA) Project Coordinator working in Mbeya, Singida and Morogoro regions in collaboration with SAT, Tanzania Research Institutes (Uyole) and RECODA explained that the project is still conducting different researches on Organic Agriculture. He explained that the National Agriculture Policy has not dealt with organic agriculture hence there is a need to review the policy. He further insisted on the needs to review our curriculum so as to increase the aspects of organic agriculture. He concluded that the organic produce ought to be promoted widely and improve its attractiveness backed by researches and technologies which will be distributed must have quality assurance.



High Level presentations



The French Ambassador to Tanzania started his remarks by thanking the farmers and stakeholders who attended the conference and was delighted by such a turn up which also considered gender balance. He said that France has continued with the efforts to promote organic agriculture due to climatic changes which have continued to affect their country.

He further said that the Embassy of France in Tanzania is collaborating with SWISSAID to continue to support the government of Tanzania especially on organic agriculture related issues. He said France has experienced impact resulting from the use of industrial chemicals in agriculture hence the country has decided to promote organic agriculture to which up to now there are 15 farmers practicing organic agriculture.

The Ambassador said that France will continue in its efforts to improve value (value addition) or organically produced crops especially grapes which are used for the champagne production and chilly where they attract high prices across many markets globally compared to products which are inorganic.

He concluded his remarks by stressing that there are a number of cultivation opportunities which include that of spices in Zanzibar and grapes in Dodoma and that they are ready to cooperate in the champagne production. He also congratulated honey farmers (bee keepers) in Tabora and also fish farming in Zanzibar under blue economy which targets economic development as well as creation of employment for its citizen.

The Belgian Ambassador to Tanzania also started by congratulating all participants for coming to the important conference saying that he was more pleased with the presence of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture Honorable Hussein Bashe (MP) and his inaugural remarks which clearly demonstrated his willingness to promote organic agriculture in Tanzania. He further spoke of the importance of organic agriculture saying that the best chocolate he has ever eaten came from Tanzania and that it was organically prepared.

Further, the Belgian Ambassador has worked in many places in Africa saying that in the efforts to fight against the use of industrial chemicals which have impact to consumers and environment he witnessed the removal of 3,000tons of pesticides while he worked in Ethiopia and wouldn't wish for that to happen in Tanzania.

The Belgian Ambassador further said that he had visited Arusha region the previous year (2020) where he was please to see farmers producing compost for use in the passion fruit farms. He said agriculture activities are impacted with global climatic changes hence urged stakeholders to continue to design and come up with alternative environmentally friendly techniques which include demonstration plots for more to learn and practice.



He concluded by saying that in Belgium the new minister for development has directed them the following:

- To promote inclusive and sustainable food systems;
- To promote organic agriculture especially for women and youth;
- To promote environmental friendly farming techniques which don't affect the environment and consumers' health; And
- Promote increased awareness of organic agriculture in combating global climate changes.



The European Union Head of Delegation started by thanking participants to attend the conference and that he is also happy to be part of the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference. He said European Union works through AGRICONNECT which has reached over 15,000 farmers in the southern highlands of Tanzania. He urged the stakeholders to continue to produce agriculture produce of high quality through ecological organic agriculture practices for they attract premium prices worldwide.

The Ambassador said that European Union works to improve roads especially rural roads in collaboration with Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) which may aide in transporting crops from the areas of production to the consumers (markets). They do so through injecting capital to farmers so that they are able to increase their production but also be able to increase productivity for different crops especially garden crops. He also said they will start seminars in Zanzibar and projects related to plant health services so that produces are able to reach all farmers. He concluded by saying that the European Union works closely with the government and its agencies as well with other ministries in promoting organic agriculture initiatives in Tanzania.



[World Food Program \(WFP\) Country Representative](#) like the previous speakers started by thanking the participants including the government for attending the second National Ecological Organic Conference. He said that the WFP has a forum with an objective of ensuring sufficient food supply and sustainable and tackle the climatic changes. Further, he said that WFP works with the government by buying food crops in ensuring food safety and in Dodoma region they do a number of activities including seed production, irrigation, forest protection and food storage hence reducing the postharvest loss while allowing farmers access to markets.

The representative in conclusion said that since 2010 they have been buying food crops to enable availability of market for smallholder farmers and improve their livelihood. Also, he mentioned that currently they are working on a five-year strategic plan which aims at identifying opportunities of organic agriculture so as to increase production while addressing the climatic changes in the country.



From the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), the representative from FAO expressed her gratitude to participate in the second National EOA Conference which aims at promoting organic agriculture in the country so that to allow food security while considering climatic changes. She said that FAO has different strategies that promote organic agriculture to bring positive results in food security and climate change. She further said that the presence of such a big number of participants especially those coming from Kigoma and Kagera regions who were trained on organic farming by FAO, will produce good ambassadors who will continue to spread the knowledge they had gained. She concluded by saying that she believes that the conference will assist in resolving different challenges facing organic agriculture initiatives so as to produce healthy foods and protect the environment.



A representative from the [Sokoine University of Agriculture \(SUA\)](#) commended the participants for attending the conference on behalf of the Vice Chancellor saying that he personally is very much pleased by the response of the different stakeholders who turned up in numbers to attend this important conference. He thanked the organizers for their tireless efforts of coordinating different stakeholders to promote organic agriculture.

He said that one of the primary functions of the Sokoine University of Agriculture is to provide training and conduct different researches including those of organic agriculture, and from those researches provide short- and medium-term trainings. He further said that as it was mentioned during the opening remarks on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, the Tanzania's founding father - Julius Kambarage Nyerere once said that SUA should focus more on the needs and find solutions to the challenges faced by farmers in the villages and also to ensure better use of existing natural resources in contributing to improvement of food production and hence improved livelihoods of the citizen.

He then thanked the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and all different development partners including those from Denmark, SWISSAID, Belgium and different local, regional and international organizations in their continued efforts of promoting organic agriculture in Tanzania and that the university will continue to collaborate with all the stakeholders in the advancement of ecological organic agriculture.

He concluded saying that some of the achievements they have had as an institution were due to cooperation and collaborations with different stakeholders including the establishment of doctorate programs in Agroecology which is in its second year since it was started and presently, they are finalizing the plans to offer Masters degree in Agroecology.



Voices from the Field



This session was moderated by Ms. Janet Maro of the Sustainable Agriculture

Tanzania (SAT) and brought together farmer representatives from across different ecological zones of Tanzania. The farmer representatives came from the following regions:

- Morogoro
- Dodoma
- Singida
- Kigoma
- Arusha
- Masasi
- Mtwara
- Lindi
- Njombe and
- Zanzibar.

The session began by showing a short testimonial video that captured these farmers and more in their localities how they practice organic agriculture especially vegetables, fruits, cash crops such as cotton. Food crops such as cereals, spices, leguminous crops and fish farming.

The video showed different techniques used in organic farming as well as the benefits and challenges which the farmers face while conducting their farming activities. Further, the farmers explained briefly about their farming activities and thanked stakeholders who have continued to empower and built their capacities in organic agriculture.

The farmers extended their request to the government and to the development partners to establish industries to produce environmentally friendly farm inputs which would second the development of organic agriculture but also to deal with the climatic changes. They also called for the recognition of their indigenous seeds that they have been using for generations.

The farmers also requested that their products mainly vegetables should be well promoted and prioritized since they have many consumers but also require a lot of industrial chemicals, hence there is a need to really promote organic agriculture which would protect consumers and the environment while combating climatic changes.



In her closing remarks on this session, Ms. Maro of the Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) thanked the farmer representatives and all the participants for attending the conference on behalf of the organizing committee. She thanked guests from abroad, the government especially the Deputy Minister of Agriculture Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP) who was the Chief Guest.

Further she urged all the farmers (including livestock keepers), those practicing organic agriculture and those who are not presently practicing organic agriculture that they need to work together in promoting healthy and safe food production for the country and the world at large. She further said that there is a great need to preserve the environment by deploying techniques which are against the climate changes.

She concluded the session by requesting the stakeholders present to ensure there are concrete and clear strategies and an alignment by the farmers, the government and all stakeholders so that we are able to attain the desired outcomes for the betterment of the farmers and the country at large.

The 2021 Call For Action

Just before the closure of the conference, following the discussions and deliberations from the parallel sessions as well as the inaugural remarks by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture Hon. Hussein Bashe (MP) on the 2021 theme which is “*Accelerating ecological organic agriculture uptake for sustainable food systems*”;

We, the 378 participants, including farmers, agriculture experts and researchers, policymakers, civil society organizations and practitioners, agriculture (including organic) businesses and entrepreneurs, development partners and Media from the Mainland and the Islands attending the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture conference in Dodoma, Tanzania from the 21st to 22nd October, 2021, express our sincere gratitude to the Deputy Minister - Ministry of Agriculture for officiating the conference.

Having discussed and exchanged information on Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) from seeds and agriculture inputs; EOA farming practices and performance; markets for organic produce; and on knowledge creation, sharing and dissemination, we noted progress on accelerating ecological organic agriculture uptake for sustainable food systems by the government and the EOA stakeholders including National Agriculture Policy 2013 reviews, EOA strategy development, research and practices, training and dissemination, financing, certification, access to markets (local and international), as well as increasing and changing in consumption pattern.

Recognizing that smallholder farmers constitute a major part of producers in the agriculture sector in Tanzania and that their contribution to household, national and global food security is huge.

Further, recognizing that 2019-2028 has been declared by the United Nations (UN) as the Decade of Family Farming and that it offers unique opportunities for accelerating ecological organic agriculture uptake for sustainable food systems, and therefore food security, through the use of innovative and environmentally friendly techniques and practices that are resilient to climate change and respectful of natural ecosystems and humans' health.

Iterate those investments in the Ecological Organic Agriculture are in line with the African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I), the African Union Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Agenda 2063 and the agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals.

Appreciating the strategy of African Union Commission in the scale up of EOA-I from the pilot eight African Countries including Tanzania. The National Agriculture Policy of 2013 and current draft review has included policy statements that will unleash contribution of the ecological organic agriculture to sustainable agroecosystems, climate change resilience, food and nutrition security, improved livelihoods and increased household incomes.

In the same view through the Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP 21/22-25-26), the government aims at improving agriculture backed by increased support through an enabling production, marketing and export environment backed by enhanced awareness of standards, increased access to capital, acquisition of new knowledge on production, storage, processing, packaging, logistics, quality assurance and marketing. The private sector which is behind all this success can increase its share of the local and foreign markets in agricultural products.

Thereby, acknowledging the significant potential of the EOA for the domestic and the export market, help to create employment and income, contributing towards sustainable economic growth and positive trade balance.

And finally, call for a new arrangement for ecological organic farming in national sectoral policies to prioritize support for EOA seeds and other agriculture inputs, farming practices and performance as well as markets for organic produce and ensuring knowledge creation, sharing and dissemination.

Specifically declare and call for Government, Private Sectors, Development Partners, Practitioners, Research and Academicians to implement and report progress on the coming National Ecological Organic Agriculture, 2023:

- i. Establish a Unit to oversee and support Ecological Organic Agriculture - Ministry of Agriculture;
- ii. Further, to set a budget in the coming financial year 2022 / 2023 and the following financial years for the purpose of advancing Ecological Organic Agriculture in the country. - Ministry of Agriculture;
- iii. Further, in collaboration with EOA Stakeholders to finalize the drafting of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy 2022-2027 (NEOAS) and coordinate its implementation - Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Development Partners and Private Sector;
- iv. Review the Seeds Act (2003) so as to take into consideration the recognition and support of Farmer Managed Seed System. - Ministry of Agriculture;
- v. Further, in collaboration with EOA Stakeholders and farmers to support the preservation, improvement, multiplication and promotion of indigenous/local seeds and availability of organic seeds, notably through community seed banks and seed fairs - Ministry of Agriculture, Private Sector, NPGRC, NGO and Farmers;
- vi. Further, in collaboration with EOA Stakeholders to conduct continuous training on ecological organic agriculture to agronomists, extension officers and smallholder farmers and capacitate the Bihawana Farmer Training Center to become a center of excellence for EOA under the Ministry of Agriculture - Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Development Partners, NGOs and Private Sector;
- vii. Incorporate Ecological Organic Agriculture research in the national agricultural research agenda - Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Ministry of Agriculture;
- viii. Enhance EOA research and dissemination of research findings including on key topics such as seeds, soil fertility, plant health and specific EOA technologies in a language that is clear and friendly to smallholder farmers - Ministry of Agriculture, TARI, SUA, UDSM, COSTECH, NPGRC, SAT, ECHO, PELUM, TOAM, AFSA and Development Partners;
- ix. Strengthen linkages of EOA farmers with markets, raise awareness across consumers, traders and producers about the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS), strengthen organic certification system and make it accessible and affordable to many farmers to be able to reach local and international markets. - Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industries and Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation, TOAM, Private Sector, Development Partners;
- x. Promote the consumption of organic agriculture products - Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Private Sector, Development Partners, Media and Farmers;
- xi. Fundraise for the purpose of promoting ecological organic agriculture technologies through relevant platforms - Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Private Sector, Development Partners, Media and Farmers;
- xii. Further, the government to include ecological organic agriculture in the district agricultural development plans. PO-RALG; and
- xiii. TOAM to organize and lead the Ecological Organic Agriculture Forum - TOAM



6. Conference Closure

Before inviting the Honorable Minister of Agriculture from Zanzibar Dr. Soud (MHoR) for the conference closing remarks, the participants had a final presentation on the status for the development of the [National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy](#) which was done by the Chairman of the Strategy Development Committee Mr. Revelian Ngaiza from the Policy Department, Ministry of Agriculture.

On his remarks he said that the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy has put into consideration the aspects of research, production, policy, distribution of technology and the use of ICT, value chain for organic agriculture produce and markets.

He said they have already put the structure and that his committee will continue to consult many stakeholders especially farmers so that the strategy is more inclusive. He concluded by urging stakeholders to come forth and support the process so that it is completed in time but also to be ready to avail advice and guidance because this strategy will be used as a guide for a very long time.

After his presentation, the Deputy Director Crop Development from the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Beatus Malema thanked all the participants for attending the second National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference as well as commending their fruitful discussions and deliberations. He specifically appreciated the readiness of the Ministry, the stakeholders and the development partners to promote organic agriculture in the country as well as resolve challenges facing the initiatives. He pledged a continuous support on behalf of the Ministry and the government that all the time the doors are open should anyone wish to be assisted. After those words, he welcomed the Zanzibar Minister of Agriculture for his closing speech.

Closing Remarks by the Zanzibar Minister of Agriculture



Hon. Minister of Agriculture of Zanzibar Dr. Soud Hassan (MHR) started by thanking all the conference participants for their participation and fruitful discussions and engagements. He thanked all the stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to organize the conference and generally for their efforts to promote organic agriculture.

He recognized the efforts by the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) in promoting organic agriculture in the country in collaboration with the development partners, the private sector and other stakeholders who made the conference a great success. He said that strategies to promote organic agriculture initiatives in Tanzania are of paramount importance especially during these times as the world is facing adverse climate conditions. He further said that his ministry in collaboration with stakeholders is implementing the Organic Agriculture Policy especially in the aspects of farming practices. He said in promoting organic agriculture, the national EOA strategy would be ready for launch in August, 2022.

Dr. Soud added that the theme for the Second National Ecological Organic

Agriculture goes parallel with the national vision since it considers environmental conservation, health of consumers, markets access for farmers as well as employment creation.

He further said that the government is aware that farmers have little capacity to meet the cost of agricultural inputs and other subsidies hence through organic agriculture many farmers will benefit and be able to afford since the costs associated with organic agriculture are relatively cheaper. He said it is vivid that the entire world is discussing organic agriculture in response to global climatic changes.

Dr. Soud further said that the East Africa Community which has six (06) member states has planned to promote ecological organic agriculture for food safety and security, healthy diets and in fighting climatic changes. He said it is timely now that industries to process organic produce are established so as to add value of those produces.

In concluding his remarks, the Minister called for the support of the Bihawana Research Centre (Centre of Excellence) which is designated for organic agriculture initiatives. He revealed that more than 600,000 organic agriculture farmers have been certified. He asked the stakeholders and development partners to continue with their efforts of promoting organic agriculture in the country.

After those remarks, he adjourned the conference.



7. Conference Side & Social

Exhibition

Participants were availed with an opportunity to visit the exhibition booths which displayed different products, services and materials related to organic agriculture in Tanzania and beyond. This opportunity provided participants another learning opportunity and exchange of organically prepared goods and technologies.

Entertainment - Cultural Dances

Participants were also entertained by local cultural dance troupe before entering into the conference venues. This was mainly designed to provide participants with the Gogo tribe exposure through cultural dances which were prepared in line with the 2021 theme.

Video Presentations

Different videos were constantly on display before the commencement of the sessions as well as during breaks which showed different efforts by different stakeholders in the organic agriculture. These videos were a learning session and eye opener to many especially those who were being exposed to organic agriculture for the first time.

Conference repository

More details including pictures, videos and presentations could be accessed through the conference website which is www.ammi.co.tz/conference or upon request through info@ammi.co.tz



8. Acknowledgement

A very special thanks goes to the Steering Committee for organizing but most importantly, financing the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference which took place on the 21st and 22nd October, 2021 in Dodoma Tanzania.

These Special thanks to the **Government of the United Republic of Tanzania** through the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the following organizations (*in alphabetic order*):

Belgium Embassy

Embassy Of Switzerland

European Union

Food And Agriculture Organization Of The United Nations

GIZ

Iles De Paix

Laudes Foundation

Led Liechtenstein Development Service

Pelum

SJS Organic Farm

Sokoine University Of Agriculture

Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania

SWISSAID

Tabio

Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement

The Embassy Of France In Tanzania

World Food Programme

World Vegetable Centre

“

The Future is Organic

”

Honorable Hussein Bashe (MP), Deputy Minister of Agriculture on his inaugural remarks during the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference, 21-22 October, 2021 in Dodoma, Tanzania



Appendices

Conference Program

Detailing all the planned events for the 2nd National Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference

List of Participants

All participants who attended the conference physically

Abbreviations

All abbreviations used in this report