

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative for Africa

This is an AUC-led initiative that aims to streamline Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into national, regional, and continental food production systems in Africa. The initiative is currently implemented in 9 African countries.

DECISION ON ORGANIC FARMING Doc. EX.CL/631 (XVIII)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 28 and 29 October 2010 on Organic Farming, and **ENDORSES** the Resolution contained therein;
2. **EXPRESSES** concern over the current practice of exploitation of the organic farmers in Africa;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to:
 - i) initiate and provide guidance for an African Union (AU)-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and
 - ii) provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality;
4. **CALLS UPON** development partners to provide the necessary technical and financial support for the implementation of this Decision;
5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of this Decision.

VISION: Resilient and vibrant Ecological Organic Agricultural systems for enhanced food and nutrient security, and sustainable development in Africa.

GOAL: To mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

SIX STRATEGIC PILLARS: 1) Research, Training and Extension, 2) Information and Communication, 3) Value Chain and Market Development, 4) Networking and Partnerships, 5) Policy and Programme Development, and 6) Institutional Capacity Development

Further, Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa has come on board – Main objective being **Knowledge hubs are successfully implemented as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture with actors in the regions of West, East and Southern Africa.**

Coalition of international partners emerging: EU through AU, SDC, SSNC/SIDA, BMZ/GIZ

AU chaired Continental Steering Committee(CSC) is an Africanwide multistakeholder platform that gives guidance on the implementation of EOA in Africa. Its 12th meeting was held in Accra between 11th and 12th November and several decisions taken.

Various studies being undertaken to support development of EOA in Africa, e.g.

- a) A study for Eastern Africa and meta-analysis study for 47 African countries on policy and legislation in support of ecological organic agriculture.
- b) Review of Institutional Structures for Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Africa

Strategies to bring on Board RECs, National Governments, being worked on to support implementation of the decision by the African Heads of States and Government.