



Assessment for the African Union Commission of North, West, Central and Southern Africa, with a view to mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture

Structure

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Acronyms

AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AGRA-MVP	Green Revolution on Africa's Millennium Villages Project
AUC	African Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
EPOPA	Export Promotion for Organic Products from Africa
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
FISP	Farm Input Support Programmes
FSR/E	Farming Systems Research and Extension
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
NOAM	National Organic Agriculture Movement
QM	Quality Management
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCTP	Social cash transfer programmes
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WUE	Water Use Efficiency
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Executive Summary

Of the 47 countries in North, West, Central and Southern Africa, two (Morocco and Tunisia) have an Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) policy, organic production standards, strong government support for EOA and a well-developed National Organic Agriculture Movement (NOAM). Eleven countries have some government support with a policy underway and strong NOAMs. Another nine countries have strong civil society organisations, significant EOA production including some export, but little government support. A further ten countries have some civil society capacity, no organic guidelines, little or no export and not much government support. Finally, there are fifteen countries with very little institutional capacity, no government support and no exports. The situation according to this typology is summarised in Table 1 and Figure 1.

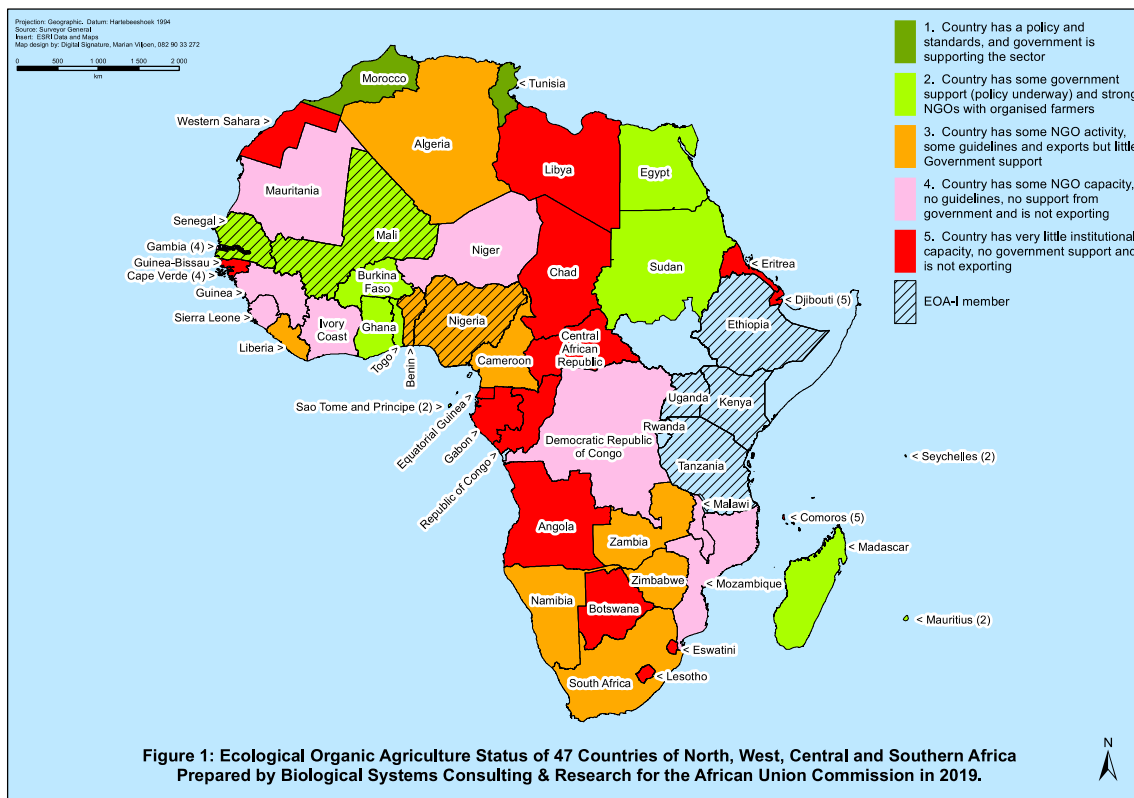
Currently, as captured in section 1, much of Africa's development budget is absorbed with Farm Input Support Programmes (FISP) (mainly giving out cheap fertilisers, hybrid seeds and agro-chemical inputs), and food safety nets; these strategies have been shown to be ineffective development support mechanisms, and constitute wasteful use of resources. With proper developmental planning, some elements of a FISP approach could contribute to sustainable development; Mauritius is the only African country to have made serious attempts at such an approach, using FISP to support compost making, so that long term soil fertility is improved, and the production capacity of the soil is enhanced in the long term. Long term research in Britain, Denmark, Switzerland and the United States (US) shows that after a few years of organic management, soil productive capacity is increased in a robust way which improves soil water- and nutrient-holding capacity. In addition, African EOA research (the Mandela Trials) shows that compost, careful cultivation and crop rotation can improve soil biological activity, counter soil acidity, raise soil organic matter and make some nutrients more readily available; where available soil phosphate is low, rock phosphate can be used as a capital injection, which, together with crop rotation and regular modest dressings of compost, will allow good levels of production and vastly improve climate change resilience.

Assisting farmers with training, institution building, compost production and, where needed, the supply of rock phosphate based on independent soil analysis, will contribute to building the capacity of African farmers to produce and sell nutritious food for Africa. The areas where support can be useful at each stage of development are explored in this report, after the typology has been explained, as outlined in Paragraph 1 above, and Tables 1 & 3. The typology proposed can provide a useful measuring tool for civil society organisations to lobby for the changes needed in their organic sectors, so that every three years each country of Africa can assess its own progress against its organic development plan.

In section 2, country summaries are presented; for each country, the research provides a description of the general development of the agricultural sector, how EOA is included in agricultural and trade policies, the nature (if any) of government support to EOA and key institutions involved in the sector, an overview of the certification landscape [including mention of participatory guarantee systems (PGS)] and ends with a review of challenges, gaps and opportunities regarding the existing policy framework. Following these detailed insights into what is happening in countries, section 3 analyses a representative country of each type (one to five) from the perspective of what legal and institutional support would be most effective for each type of country. In section 4, a work programme is set out for each type of country, which starts with a developmental planning process aimed at moving the country forward towards EOA. Monitoring and evaluation criteria for the sector are then presented.

Table 1: Summary of EOA status of 47 countries of North, West, Central and Southern Africa

Typology	Type	Organic Policy	Product standard	Govt support	Farmers organised	Export & domestic market	Countries	No
Advanced EOA country	1	Yes	Yes	Strong	NOAM	Yes, both	Morocco Tunisia	2
Active EOA Country	2	Coming	Yes	Promise	NOAM	Yes, both	Burkina Faso Egypt Ghana Madagascar Mali Mauritius São Tomé & Príncipe Senegal Seychelles Sudan Togo	11
Infant EOA Country	3	No	Yes or No	Little	Yes	Yes Export; Domestic developing	Algeria Benin Cameroon Liberia Namibia Nigeria South Africa Zambia Zimbabwe	9
Nascent EOA Awareness	4	No	No	None	Weak	Some export; Little domestic	Cape Verde DR Congo Gambia Guinea Rep Ivory Coast Malawi Mauritania Mozambique Niger Sierra Leone	10
Awaiting Inspiration	5	No	No	None	None	None	Angola Botswana Central Afr Rep Chad Comoros Congo Republic Djibouti Equator. Guinea Eritrea Eswatini Gabon Guinea-Bissau Lesotho Libya W Sahara	15



The 55 countries of Africa are shown in Figure 1 above, excluding details for East Africa, but showing two advanced EOA countries, eleven active EOA countries, nine nascent EOA countries, ten infant EOA countries and fifteen countries awaiting inspiration regarding Ecological Organic Agriculture.

Morocco and Tunisia are leading the way in EOA, and it is contributing significantly to food security, employment, food sovereignty, climate change resilience and export earnings in those countries.

From West Africa, Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal have joined EOA-I (black diagonal lines). In East Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda have made significant progress and have also joined the EOA Initiative, while Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia have not as yet; East Africa reported separately on EOA progress.

EOA in Africa will help to make healthy those countries which plan intelligently, invest wisely, develop human capital and institutions, protect natural resources and help the EOA trade to regulate itself effectively. The establishment of robust Organic Food Systems will require consumer education, collaboration between national departments of Health, Education, Environment and Agriculture, effective government support for healthy food choices in public procurement, and an entrepreneurial private sector.