



## The Nairobi Declaration for an Ecological Organic Alternative for Africa

We, the participants of the international conference on Ecological Organic Agriculture:  
*The Alternative for Africa;*

**REGISTERING** our appreciation to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), the African Union Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), COLABORA, the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) and the representatives of African National Organic Agriculture Networks;

### RECOGNISING

- the importance that has been placed on agriculture as a development catalyst on the African continent toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the founding Declaration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) through the promotion of increased public and private collaboration within the African agribusiness sector;
- the efforts already done by the African organic agriculture movements under the leadership of IFOAM;

**RECALLING** the related commitments made by African Heads of State:

1. in the 2003 Maputo Declaration calling for 10% of public expenditure on agricultural and rural development;
2. in the 2004 Sirte Declaration on "The Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Water in Africa" to promote and develop the key agriculture sector;
3. at the 2007 African Union Summit on the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa which identifies agriculture as a key sector within which to promote value added production on the continent;
4. at the 2011 Addis Ababa summit on the Decision on Organic Farming (Doc. EX.CL/631 (XVIII)) requesting the AU Commission and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to initiate and provide guidance for an AU-led coalition of international partners on the establishment of an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and to provide guidance in support of the development of sustainable organic farming systems and improve seed quality.

**TAKING NOTE OF AND EMBRASING** the Report of the workshop organized by the European Commission and the African Union Commission (AUC) in June 2011 at Brussels, Belgium, and the conclusions thereof.

**CONSCIOUS** of the on-going food crisis characterized by the continued rise in food prices combined with intermittent food shortages and related climate change effects that reduce food security as currently manifested in the famine in parts of the Horn of Africa.

**ENDORISING** the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative developed by the AUC in response to the Heads of States Decision on Organic Farming as a way to bring organic agriculture on the centre stage of agricultural policies in Africa.

**CONVINCED**

- that only farming that nourishes Nature and supports natural biological activities, respects biodiversity, efficient use of water, climate, seeds, breeds (plants and animals) and naturally replenished soils can guarantee food for all Africans: now and in the future;
- that ecological organic farming systems are appropriate for African smallholders as increased yields and superior resilience to climate change are achieved without costly inputs or infrastructure and therefore increase affordability and accessibility to food and nutrition.
- that ecological organic agriculture emits much lower levels of greenhouse gases (GHG), and quickly, affordably and effectively sequesters carbon in the soil;
- that entry into organic production and trade brings farmers into more resilient production systems, reduces external costs and helps farmers to access higher value markets, both at home and abroad, thereby increasing their income while using natural resources efficiently and sustainably;
- that the adoption of ecological organic agriculture provides a range of health benefits by avoiding the exposure to chemical residues that contaminate farmers, farms, animals, ecosystems, food and consumers;
- that the scaling up of ecological organic farming through the reorientation of policies that support small-scale producers is one of Africa's most urgent priorities if the goals of sustainable development, food security, climate adaptation and poverty eradication are to be simultaneously achieved;
- that the IAASTD report and its multi-stakeholder process, supported by multiple countries and UN institutions, is the most comprehensive and legitimate study for guiding the transition of agriculture;
- that organic farming allows farmers to move up the value chain, e.g. by developing local branding of products, contributing to the education of the community and linking farming to tourism (e.g. Ecotourism) through marketing and the "power of origin". This contributes to African small scale farmers' economic security.

**NOTING** that 80% of African farmers are women and that these women are predominantly engaged in ecological organic agricultural practices.

**HEREBY URGE** African Governments and Regional Economic Communities to:

- Include the EOA Initiative and Action Plans in national and Regional agricultural policies particularly in the Multiannual National and Regional Indicative Programmes (NPIs)/(RIPs) which are the main funding vehicles for agriculture in Africa;
- Incorporate private sector stakeholders and especially *women* in agriculture policy and programme implementation efforts – related to the implementation of CAADP investment plans and the development of value chains;
- Redouble efforts to create an enabling environment for fostering access to finance for deployment in the agricultural sector, especially for smallholders and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
- Develop and promote inclusive economic growth strategies that support the incorporation of small holder farmers into local, regional and international agribusiness value chains;
- Encourage and guide bilateral and multilateral development partners to support national and regional related efforts to engage and develop organic agriculture;
- Reinforce capacities to build/develop skills, technologies and mind-sets that improve and empower entrepreneurship and productivity of food production, processing and related agro-ecological activities.

**URGE**

- the African Union to Engage in public private dialogues and platforms, at the pan-African, regional and national levels to explore and further public private partnerships and collaboration for ecological organic farming.
- IFOAM to continue and step up its efforts to coordinate and guide the organic sector as well as interacting with national, regional, continental and international organizations to hasten the adoption of ecological organic agriculture in Africa.

**REQUEST** Africa's Development partners to:

- Increase the level of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) resources deployed and programmes initiated to support organic farming initiatives; and
- Advance development effectiveness by working collaboratively and in an aligned and coordinated manner with African recipients of development resources.

This Declaration was adopted by the participants in Furthering Africa's Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA): *The alternative for Africa* workshop – in Nairobi, Kenya, on 16 November 2011.

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Definition of Ecological Organic Agriculture**

Ecological Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Ecological Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

### **The Principles of Organic Agriculture**

- **Principle of Health:**

Organic Agriculture sustains and enhances the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

- **Principle of Ecology:**

Organic Agriculture is based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

- **Principle of Fairness:**

Organic Agriculture builds on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities

- **Principle of Care:**

Organic Agriculture is managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

## Appendix 2

### Participants List

	Name	First Name	Organization	Country
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6	Akinbamijo	Yemi	African Union Commission	Ethiopia
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15	Bassey	Nnimmo	Environmental Rights Action / Friends of the Earth International	Nigeria
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35	Gichohi	Linda	KIOF	Kenya
36	Githegi	Sofia	Boldventures	Kenya
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39	Herren	Hans R.	Biovision Foundation	Switzerland
40	Hinga	Maria		Kenya
41	Höhn	Bärbel	Alliance 90/The Greens	Germany
42	Höök	Karin	SSNC	Sweden
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44	Jordan	Gama	TOAM	Tanzania
45	Juma	Jack	KOAN	Kenya
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47	Kaguembega-Mueller	Franziska	newTrees for Sahel	Burkina-Faso
48	Kahumbu Stephanou	Su	Green Dreams Ltd	Kenya
49	Kahwai	Edward	Aquaponics Kenya	Kenya
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72	Macharia	Charles	AFRICAN AGRI CENTRE LTD	Kenya
73	Macharia	Lucy	The Organic Farmer	Kenya
74	Makanya	Zachary	PELUM Kenya	Kenya
75	Manyatta	Wanjiku	Ministry of Rural Development Authorities	Kenya
76	Mbithi	Richard	MITI MINGI CONSERVATION CENTER	Kenya
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89	Mbugua	Ann	Bridges Organic Health Restaurant	Kenya
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125	Njoki Macharia	Teresiah	Green Dreams Ltd	Kenya
126	Njoroge	John Wanjau	KIOF	Kenya
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150	Pittchar	Jimmy	icipa	Kenya
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164	Schriber	Andreas	Biovision Foundation	Switzerland
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175	Stephanou	Elleni	Green Dreams Ltd	Kenya
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187	Wakari	Bancy	Rungeto Organic Macadamia Farmers SHG	Kenya
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189	Wangera	Peter Manji	Community Groups	Kenya
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191	Wangong'u	Patricia	IFOAM	Kenya
192	Wanjiku Kamau	Margaret	Ngong Organic Farmers Association	Kenya
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197	Wilde	Samantha	Waruingi Ephantus	Kenya
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199	Wilhelm	Seraphine	Rapunzel Naturkost GmbH	Germany
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