

East African organic products standard

EAS 456:2007



2005 in East Africa:

- Strong production and export growth
- Small domestic markets
- No regional trade
- Five public and private organic standards
- Stakeholders concerned that this multitude of standards could become a technical barrier to trade within the region and place unneeded restrictions on regional collaboration.

Benefits of regional standard

CBTF

- common understanding of what OA is in East Africa
- raise awareness about OA among farmers, consumers, policymakers
- boost organic trade and market development in the region
- facilitate international market access
- influence international organic standard setting processes
- Promote regional cooperation (e.g. common training materials)



A public-private partnership

CBTF

- RSTWG composed of a cross - section of stakeholders
 - 5 representatives from NBSs Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda Rwanda and Burundi.
 - 3 from certification bodies,
 - 3 from NOAMs
 - 1 from the East African Business Council
 - Facilitators from IFOAM and UNEP-UNCTAD CBTF

UNEP

UNCTAD

RSTWG

CBTF

Regional Standards Technical Working Group

the facilitators of the East African Organic Products Standard



- 4 meetings of the RSTWG (Oct 05; March, May & Dec 06)
- Wide stakeholder consultations
- National consultative meetings May & Dec 06
- Field testing Nov 06
- Comparison with international standards (Codwx and IFOAM)
- Joint meeting RSTWG & IFOAM Standards Committee (Dec 06)

- KEBS submits EAOPS to the Committee responsible for standards in the EAC (EASTSC) Jan 07
- The EASTSC approved the document in Feb 07
- The EAC Council of Ministers approved in April 07
- Launch of the EAOPS in May 2007 by Prime Minister Lowassa of Tanzania



Launching the EAOPS, May 2007

CBTF



- **Covers crop production, animal husbandry, bee-keeping, wild harvesting; handling, storage, processing; and labelling**
- **Tailored to East African conditions (e.g. smallholdings, livestock, wildlife corridors for migratory animals, no clearing of primary ecosystems)**
- **Does not include provisions related to inspection and certification, to leave options open for PGS**



UNCTAD

- **Jointly owned and managed by the national organic movements, umbrella open inclusive**
- **May be affixed to:**
 - **products produced in East Africa according to the East African Organic Products Standard**
 - **Products produced outside East Africa according to standards including EU, USNOP, JAS, China, etc.**



- **Importance of partnership: CBTF-IFOAM and within region**
- **Unifying effect of common vision and goal:**
 - East African Organic Team**
- **Momentum and visibility**
- **Importance of Common mark/logo**
- **Boosts domestic markets & regional trade**
- **Need for follow-up actions to get full effect**



- **Joint inspection protocol**
- **Promote uptake in market through awareness raising among consumers and organic operators**
- **Seek EU recognition as equivalent standard**



THANK YOU

Please visit our website at:

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