



The Lagos Declaration On Achieving Social and Economic Development through Ecological and Organic Agricultural Alternatives

We, the 220 participants, including 34 farmers; men, women and youths, from 28 countries attending the 3rd African Organic Conference held in Lagos, Nigeria between 5 and 9 October 2015, having deliberated on the theme "*Achieving Social and Economic Development through Ecological and Organic Agricultural Alternatives*",

AGREE that Ecological organic agriculture (EOA) has a significant role to play in addressing the pressing problems of poverty, food insecurity, land degradation, market access, food safety and climate change in Africa. The results shared prove that ecological organic farming systems increase yields, are resilient to climate change effects and are achieved cost-effectively. Further, EOA is climate smart, preserves biodiversity, provides ecosystem services, and produces lower carbon emissions.

APPRECIATING

- the development of EOA Strategic Plan by the Continental EOA Steering Committee and other partners as a means of facilitating the implementation of the AU Heads of State and Government Decision on Organic Farming (Doc. EX.CL/631 (XVIII)). This Strategic Plan is aligned to AUC-DREA's Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Results framework, the Malabo declaration, AU Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- the progress by Network of Organic Research in Africa (NOARA) such as development of an African research agenda for ecological organic agriculture.

RECOGNIZING

- the contribution of household food security to economic development, while embracing the UN Right to Food and food sovereignty,
- the value of organic trade globally,
- that the development and implementation of policies to support the EOA sector will require strengthening the capacities of national ecological organic agriculture stakeholders

RECALLING

- the commitment made by African Heads of State and Government in the 2003 Maputo Declaration calling for the allocation of 10% of public expenditure to agriculture

- the African model legislation, for the protection of the rights of local communities, farmers and breeders, and for the regulation of access to biological resources

WE RECOMMEND ALL MEMBER STATES TO

- Endorse and support the implementation of the African EOA Strategic Plan
- Mainstream EOA in their policies, investment plans and programmes, based on the local needs in consultation with the ecological organic agriculture stakeholders and other like-minded organizations in their countries
- Allocate at least 1.0% of the 10% total public expenditure to agriculture for the implementation of the African EOA Strategic Plan.
- Develop seed systems and training programs for women the youth and other stakeholders to generate planting material resources and breeds of livestock to promote ecological organic agriculture.
- Document and recognize the role of women and youth and to include the contribution household food security towards GDP.
- Domesticate the African model Law for the protection of the rights of local communities, farmers and breeders, and for the regulation of access to biological resources
- Take steps to remove trade barriers within and across borders in order to deepen access to national, regional and global markets and expand their market share

WE URGE

- Africa's development partners and donors to increase support to the AU led Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative, including the expansion of the Initiative to other African countries beyond the eight countries being supported.
- All African stakeholders and development partners to engage in and support NOARA's research agenda which is to support the scientific, innovative and traditional knowledge dimensions of ecological organic agriculture.
- FARA to partner with NOARA in identifying and addressing major research priorities that will help make ecological organic agriculture more productive, profitable and sustainable.
- National, regional and international organizations committed to supporting healthy and productive food and agriculture systems to continue and step up their efforts to sensitize the society about the multiple benefits of ecological organic agriculture.
- Ecological organic agriculture actors at the country level to liaise and work with the CAADP Country teams to mainstream EOA in the CAADP investment plans.

WE CONGRATULATE the following 2015 Champions for Ecological Organic Agriculture for their various outstanding contributions:

- Dr. Hans Herren (President of Millennium Institute, Washington DC and Biovision Foundation, Switzerland),
- Dr. Sophia Twarog (UNCTAD; Switzerland),
- Dr. Mwatima Juma (Senior Programme Officer, IFAD and Chair of Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), Tanzania),
- Prof. Simplicie Davo Vodouhe (Coordinator OBEPAB, Benin),
- Dr. Gunnar Rundgren (Sweden),

- Prof. Raymond Auerbach (Nelson Mandela Metro University, South Africa),
- John Wanjau Njoroge (Director Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF), Kenya),
- Joseph Ngugi Mutura (Director SACDEP Kenya),
- Rev. Fr. Godfrey Nzamujo (Founder of Songhai Centre, Benin),
- Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola (Governor of State of Osun, Nigeria),
- Chief Dr Olusegun Mathew Okikiola Aremu Obasanjo (Former President of Nigeria),
- General Abdulsalam Abubakar (Former President of Nigeria),
- Prof. Gideon Olajire Adeoye (Chair, NOAN, Nigeria).

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WE AGREE to meet in Cameroon in 2018 for the 4th African Organic Conference.