

Organic Agriculture policy Development in Uganda

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Background

- ◆ Agriculture still remains the backbone of Uganda's economy
- ◆ Contributing 15.1% of the National Gross Domestic product, 60% of export earnings and employs 73% of the national labour force (MAAIF,2009)
- ◆ Over 95% of the farmers are smallholders with landholding ranging from 0.5 acres to 10acres
- ◆ Over the past 7 years, Uganda has witnessed a rapid growth in the organic sector

Background cont.....

- ◆ Formal (certified) OA in Uganda started way back in 1993, as a response to unfolding market opportunities in Europe
- ◆ The increasing global demand for organic products in international markets and associated premium prices, contributing to improved household incomes in the rural communities

Background cont.....

- ◆ Today there are over 200,000 certified farming households in Uganda(2007/2008), 44 organic export companies and total value of export of over 30million USD
- ◆ The government of Uganda acknowledges the positive contribution of organic agriculture to increasing incomes especially in the rural areas, and the visible contribution to the protection of the environment;
- ◆ Organic agriculture also offers an opportunity for transition from traditional to modern agriculture by adopting formal planning and management practices

Background cont.....

- ◆ It was therefore prudent that for organic agriculture to contribute to the development in agriculture and the national economy as a whole, an enabling environment for the sector needed to be created
- ◆ The government of Uganda has shown commendable interest in the above developments in Organic Agriculture and has contributed to the development of the Uganda Organic Standards, the East African Organic Products standard (EAOPS), marketing opportunities and also decided to develop an Organic Agriculture Policy

Background cont.....

- ◆ The Government seeks to promote organic agriculture in the coming years to a fully viable sub sector which will contribute to the national economy
- ◆ This would be facilitated through formulation of clear policy to guide the growth of the sector

Background cont.....

- ◆ The policy seeks to facilitate the Attainment of a **competitive** and **profitable** OA Sub-Sector in Uganda generating adequate, safe and quality food, fibre and other goods and services for **sustainable development.**

Process of OA policy development

- ◆ In 2004, the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, animal industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) appointed a committee to over see the policy drafting and consultation
- ◆ Committee consisted of 26 members from within the departments of MAAIF, other line ministries and private sector institutions (led by NOGAMU)

Process of OA policy development

- ◆ In July/August 2009 regional consultations of all stakeholders countrywide were carried out
- ◆ In November 2009 a national meeting was held to make the final consultations in the draft policy before the OA policy committee handed over the improved draft policy to the Permanent Secretary MAAIF
- ◆ Currently the draft policy is before the Top Management of MAAIF and once approved, it will be presented to cabinet.



Process of OA policy development

- ◆ Organic agriculture has also been incorporated in the National Development Plan (NDP), which has replaced the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) as the government framework for guiding accelerated national economic development
- ◆ Government through MAAIF and the Uganda Export Promotion Board are working with the Private sector (through NOGAMU) and Uganda Martyrs University to establish a centre of excellence for Organic Agriculture, that should serve not only Uganda, but the rest of Africa as well

Conclusion

- ◆ The Organic policy is in now before Top management of MAAIF
- ◆ There after, it will be presented to Cabinet.
- ◆ The completion of the organic policy with go a long way in stimulating the further development of the organic sector in Uganda