



Kenya Organic Agriculture Network

Membership Policy

KOAN Membership

KOAN is a national membership organization for organic agriculture in Kenya. KOAN was formed to coordinate, facilitate and provide leadership and professional services to all members and other stakeholders in the organic agriculture industry in Kenya. Its goal is to develop key competencies, skills and strategies in the areas of Organic Production; Marketing; Standards and Certification; Training, Extension and Information Exchange; Networking, Policy and Advocacy. KOAN activities have direct impacts on the livelihoods of many small-scale farmers, and on the wider potential of organic agricultural, horticultural and natural products enterprises in Kenya.

Vision Statement

A vibrant Ecological Organic agriculture sector for healthy, resilient communities and environments.

Mission Statement

To lead, coordinate and create public exposure of the National organic Agriculture Sector, Promoting its contribution to economic, environmental and social benefits

What we do

- Facilitate provision of technical advisory services in the areas of production, training, certification and marketing.
- Facilitate producers' access to organic markets (locally and internationally) and co-ordinate the establishment of viable businesses within the organic sector.
- Facilitate the development of unified training programmes in organic agriculture in Kenya.
- Create public awareness on the benefits of organic agriculture including dissemination of key research findings in organic agriculture.
- Lobby and participate in the formulation and implementation of pro Organic Agriculture policies

KOAN membership is open to organizations provided they:

1. Are involved in organic agriculture, Agro-ecology or other related issues or at least with proven and specific activities that uphold the principles of Organic Agriculture
2. Are willing to participate in KOAN activities, share knowledge and experiences.
3. Support and endorse KOAN mission, goals and objectives
4. Abide to the KOAN constitution

Types of Membership

To enable the organization to meet the needs of different sectors better the following interest groups have been identified. This is by no means exhaustive and is subject to updating where need arises.

Interest group Category	Who is included	Services required
Market	Traders, Exporters	Market linkages

		Market information Capacity building
Production	Producer organizations, Large scale farmers, smallholder producers, Training organisations	Capacity building in organic production, certification and market access Market linkages Awareness creation Research and Development Exchange visits Curriculum harmonization and updating
Service Providers	Certification Bodies, Government, Research organizations,	information gathering and sensitization Policy support Capacity building Research into contribution of organic agriculture Establish partnerships/collaboration with research and higher learning institutions
Consumers	Advocacy groups,	Awareness creation Policy support

For registration purposes the following will be used however members will also list the particular interest group areas they fall under.

Type	Characteristics of the Membership	KSHS
1. Corporate membership: (with Voting)	This is open to private companies, cooperatives and other business associations. Open to National and Regional NGOs and Networks which have been operating with local rural communities for at least two years and which support or engage in participatory ecological land-use management.	20,000 KES
2. NGOs membership (With voting rights)	Open to National and international NGOs, government departments, parastatals supporting providing support services to farmers.	15,000 KES
3. CBOs, SHG, FBO and Farmer Groups (with voting rights)	These include Community based Organizations, Self Help Groups, Farmer Based Organizations and other Farmer Groups that are formed by communities and represent these communities	10,000 KES
4. Sponsor Associates		

(non-voting).	Open to any organizations or person wishing to sponsor activities of KOAN	50,000 and above
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Benefits of becoming a member

- Members will receive the KOAN annual membership newsletter, and free access to any information focusing on the various aspects of organic agriculture in Kenya and beyond. They will also be kept posted on the developments of the organic movement in Kenya and around the world.
- You become part of an active and vibrant organic movement in Kenya
- You will be involved in KOAN activities including community development, research, public awareness, policy development, lobbying and advocacy, marketing activities
- You will learn through contributing to activities and information offered free electronically and in print including WhatsApp.
- You get opportunities to link up with the global organic movement.

Roles and responsibilities of a Member

- Active participation in KOAN's activities including the AGM and representing KOAN on official request.
- Members contribute their skills and experience to strengthen KOAN and other members where possible.

Joining and Vetting Procedure

- A member must fill a membership application form stating clearly what activities the potential member is involved in and their interest in organic agriculture.
- The form should be submitted to the Secretariat for primary vetting on whether the requirements have been met
- If complete this is then submitted to a vetting committee appointed by the board which will analyze the applications and make recommendations on membership status.
- On approval, the decision will be communicated to the member in writing electronically and by post
- The member will be given one month within which full registration and subscription fees should be paid.
- Once this is done, a membership card containing your name, number and certificate will be issued
- New members will be acknowledged and listed in the KOAN website.
- Double registration of members as both individual members and group, with the same contact person is not allowed and could lead to refusal/deregistration.

Payment

Payment for membership will be done at the Organization's bank or at the registered offices. The bank details will be communicated together with the approval decision

Renewal Procedure

- Membership is due at the beginning of each year with deadline being 31/03 irrespective of when the member joined the organization.
- Each member should be given a membership card capturing the following details:
 - Name of individual/group
 - Registration Number
 - Expiry Date

- A certificate will also be issued and will also capture the expiry dates. In case of loss of the certificate, the KOAN secretariat should be contacted and replacement costs met by the member
- If renewal is not done in one year, arrears will be due on renewal the following year.

De-registration of members

- If a member indulges in gross misconducts either contravening the KOAN constitution or the Organic Principles or any other act that negates the stability growth of KOAN's Vision, Mission and Objectives, the board may consider deregistration of the member.
- Consistent non-participation in KOANs activities particularly the AGM. In line with the laid down procedures.
- If membership withdrawal is requested by the member in writing
- If membership is not renewed for two consecutive years

The board reserves the right to recommend registration and suspension of members. Approval of registration and expulsion of members is subject to ratification of the AGM.