

# KENYA ORGANIC AGRICULTURE NETWORK

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE



KENYA ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE NETWORK



## ● TABLE OF CONTENTS

● Organisation Overview	3
Who are we?	3
● Vision & Mission	3
● Our Service	4
● What we do	5
● How we Work	6
● Project Portfolio	7
● Current Projects	9
● Successfully Completed Projects	10
● Our Partners	11



# ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

## WHO ARE WE?

Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (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. Membership is driven from farmers, traders, exporters, service providers (extension officers, certification bodies) and research institutions. 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.

## VISION & MISSION



### VISION

*"A vibrant Ecological Organic Agriculture sector for healthy, resilient communities and environments."*

### MISSION



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

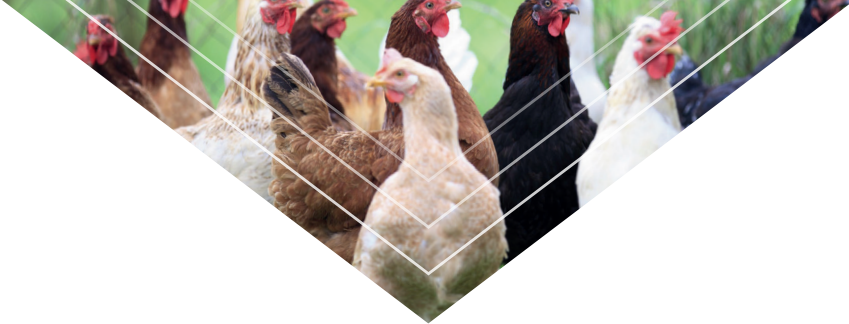


## OUR SERVICES

### WHAT WE DO

1. KOAN provides technical advice, training, promotion and business support in the areas of;
  - Commercial organic production
  - Improved processing technologies
  - Organic market development including creating market linkages with the national and international markets.
  - Certification support including pre certification advisory, development and Implementation of Internal Control Systems (ICS) and participatory guarantee system (PGS) for organic, fair trade and Good Agricultural Practices
  - Coordination of organic certification and inspection services acceptable at both national and international levels.
2. Issuance and governance of East Africa Organic Mark (Kilimohai Mark).
3. KOAN creates public awareness on the benefits of organic agriculture and promotion of Kilimohai Mark.





4. In Liaison with universities and research institutions, KOAN validates, documents and disseminates key research findings in organic agriculture.
5. KOAN lobbies and participates in the formulation and implementation of pro organic Agriculture policies.
6. KOAN provides certification and guarantee of organic products, using the East Africa Organic Products Standards (EAOPS).
7. KOAN provides a national resource center for organic agriculture information regarding all aspects of production, processing, certification and marketing.
8. KOAN provides accreditation of trainers, training institutions, local inspectors and certification bodies.





## HOW WE WORK.

KOAN uses Value Chain Approach which starts by identifying market opportunities through surveillance and then identify actors, build their capacity and facilitate collaborative partnerships to optimize the market opportunities.

KOAN as well organizes multi-stakeholder platforms to enhance sharing of information, lobbying and networking amongst Organic Agriculture stakeholders. This enhances collaboration and joint advocacy that creates an enabling environment for the organic agriculture sector growth.





## PROJECT PORTFOLIO

### CURRENT PROJECTS

**1 EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN LAKE BOGORIA PRODUCTION LANDSCAPE TO ENHANCE THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE LAKE BOGORIA NATIONAL RESERVE, THROUGH INCLUSIVENESS AND CONSENSUS BUILDING.**

This is a conservation project for the Lake Bogoria Landscape, a priority Landscape for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Phase six. The project supports community-based organizations and networks that cover the entire Lake Bogoria Basin such as the Water Resources Users Association; the Baringo County Community Conservancies Association (BCCCA); the Rift Lakes Conservancies Association (RLCA) and the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), given their critical role for replication, up scaling and sustainability.



## 2. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN MURANGA AND MACHAKOS COUNTIES TO MODERN MARKETS IN KENYA

The project aims at addressing key challenges in marketing organic produce from small holder farmers which include but not limited to: weak linkages between producers and traders, poor quality of produce reaching the market, low capacity for farmers/traders to organize logistics (handling, sorting, grading, packaging and transportation) for products to reach the market, poor organization and bulking of products from smallholder farmers whose scale of production is low and lack of cold chain which jeopardizes quality management along the chain, weak guarantee system, weak flow of market information and limited awareness of organic products.

The project also builds up on lessons learnt in previous marketing projects which include the need for strengthening supply logistics, cultivating strong relationships between supermarket and farmers, quality management along the value chain and developing a strong organic brand for higher visibility of organic products in the market. The project is designed not only to address issues on one side of the chain but takes a holistic approach to address challenges based on past experiences at different nodes of the chain. These experiences are from the chain actors and not one organization. The implementation of the project will also be participatory involving and working together with all the stakeholders. This will critical to ensure success of the project.





### 3. ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE (EOAI) 2017 – 2019 FUNDED BY SIDA THROUGH THE SWEDISH SOCIETY OF NATURE CONSERVATION, (SSNC) AND THE (EOAI) 2015 – 2018 FUNDED BY SWISS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Since the agrarian revolution conventional agriculture has been seen as the solution to food security worldwide. Agriculture became commercialized and large-scale production systems emerged where farm mechanization and use of synthetic agrochemicals were the most effective means of controlling pests and diseases. The use of synthetic agrochemicals indeed boosts production in the short term but have significant negative impacts in the long run. As more research into the impact of synthetic agrochemicals comes in, it is more apparent that ecological agricultural production methods need to be mainstreamed if food security in Africa is to be attained.

The Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative is an African Union-led continental programme, started in 2011 and implemented under the guidance and oversight of the AU chaired Continental Steering Committee (CSC). EOA aims at instituting an African organic farming platform based on available best practices; and developing sustainable organic farming systems and improved seed quality. The mission of the initiative is to promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders involved in the production, processing, marketing, and policy-making to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and guarantee food security among farmers in Africa. The goal is to contribute to mainstreaming of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.



## SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED PROJECTS ●

- Organic Trade in East Africa (OTEA) 2015 – 2018 funded by SIDA
- Enhancing Coordination of Organic Markets in East Africa (ECOMEA) 2014-2017 funded by DANIDA
- Facilitation and coordination of the organic sub sector for livelihood improvement and increased resilience to the effects of climate change: 2010 – 2013 funded by HIVOS
- Empowering small holder farmers to adopt tea tree production for improved livelihoods and increased climate change resilience in Laikipia 2005 – 2007 funded by UNDP, GEF
- Organic value chain development 2009 – 2010 funded by HIVOS
- Gender and certified value chains in East Africa 2010 funded by HIVOS and SNV
- Facilitating coordination of the organic sub sector to increase incomes among small scale producers through sustainable land use and access to more rewarding and fairer markets 2007 – 2010 funded by HIVOS
- Organic marketing assistance programme (OMAP), 2005 - 2006
- Developing a marketing function for sustainable livelihoods and establishment of viable businesses within the organic agriculture industry 2004
- One Stop Organic Shop in East Africa, (OSOSEA) 2013 – 2018 funded by Trade Mark East Africa



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**



*Growing Prosperity Through Trade*



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK**

**DANIDA** | INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



**Naturskyddsforeningen**  
*100år*





**KENYA ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE NETWORK**

## **CONTACT US**



CPA Centre  
Block A,  
1st Floor



Telephone  
+254 787 557 908



E-mail  
[info@koan.co.ke](mailto:info@koan.co.ke)

[www.koan.co.ke](http://www.koan.co.ke)