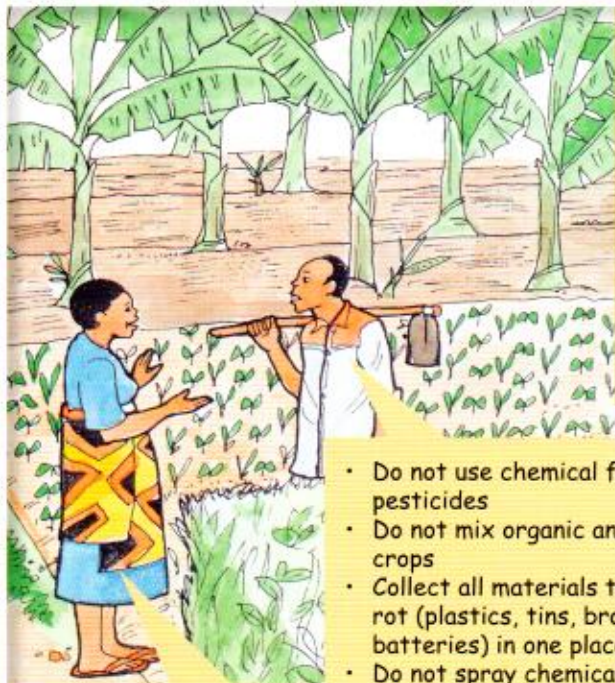




## **Crop Production**

*Introducing the*  
**East African Organic Products  
Standard**





## 1 Protecting crops from non-organic materials

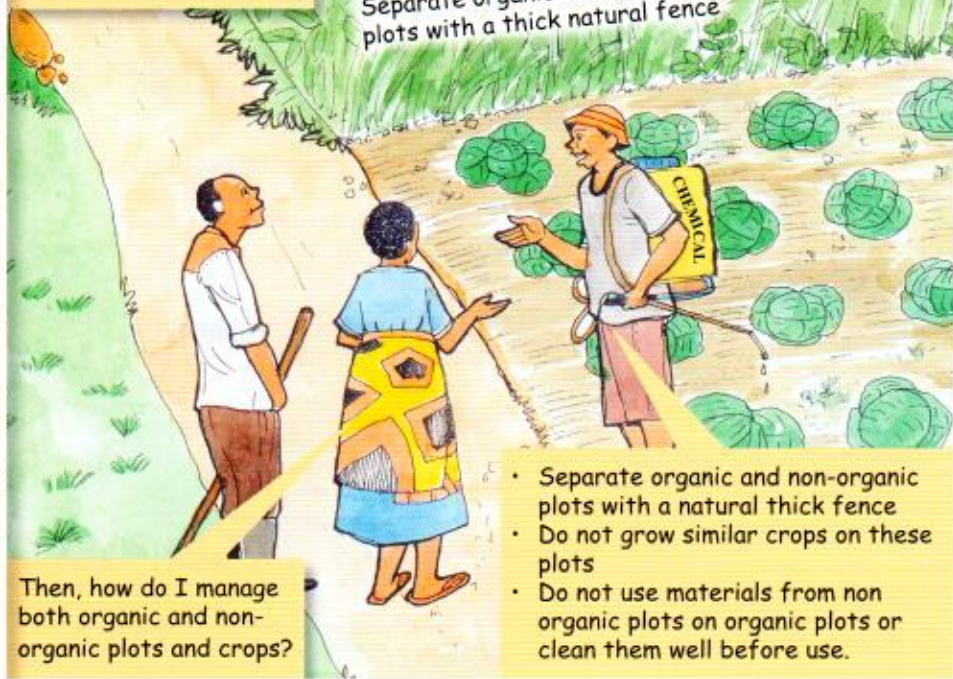
Crops in the field as well as harvested crops should be protected from any non-organic materials from within and outside the farm

*How?*

- Do not use chemical fertilisers and pesticides
- Do not mix organic and non-organic crops
- Collect all materials that do not rot (plastics, tins, broken glass, batteries) in one place
- Do not spray chemicals in the crop store.

How do I protect my organic crops from getting contaminated?

Separate organic and non-organic plots with a thick natural fence



- Separate organic and non-organic plots with a natural thick fence
- Do not grow similar crops on these plots
- Do not use materials from non organic plots on organic plots or clean them well before use.

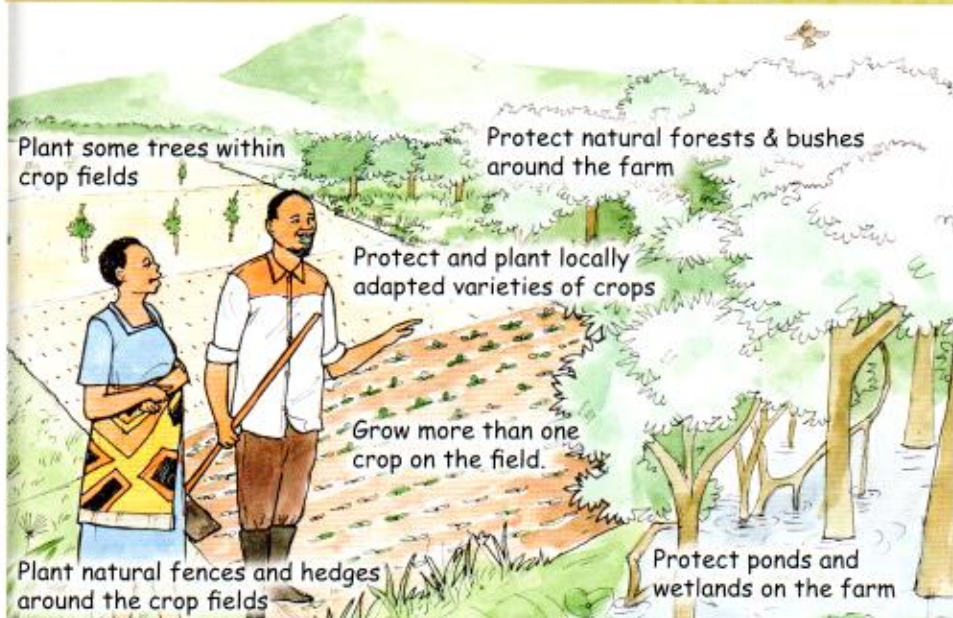
Then, how do I manage both organic and non-organic plots and crops?



## 2 Having a variety of organisms on the farm

Different types of plants, trees, insects and other animals should be allowed and encouraged on the farm, as each has a purpose.

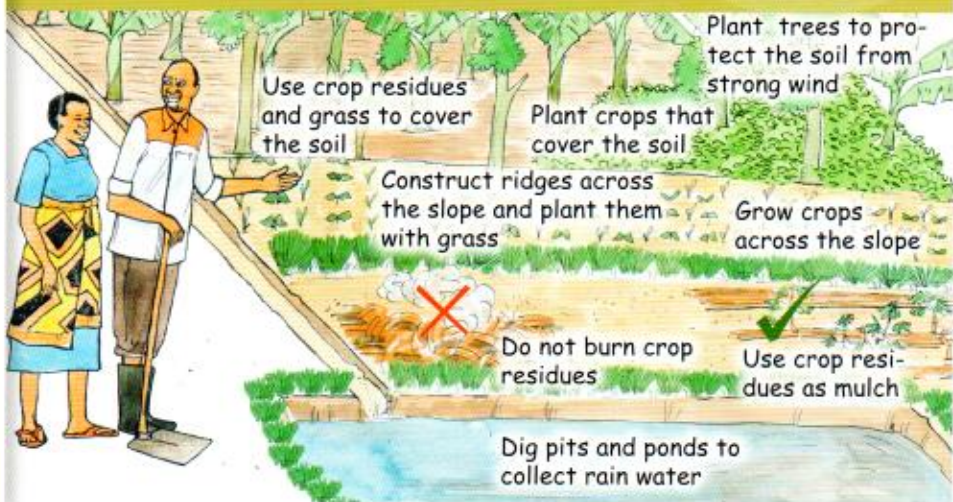
*How?*



## 3 Protecting the soil from loss and conserving soil water

Protect the soil from erosion by water and wind, moisture loss, and collect or harvest and store rain water.

*How?*

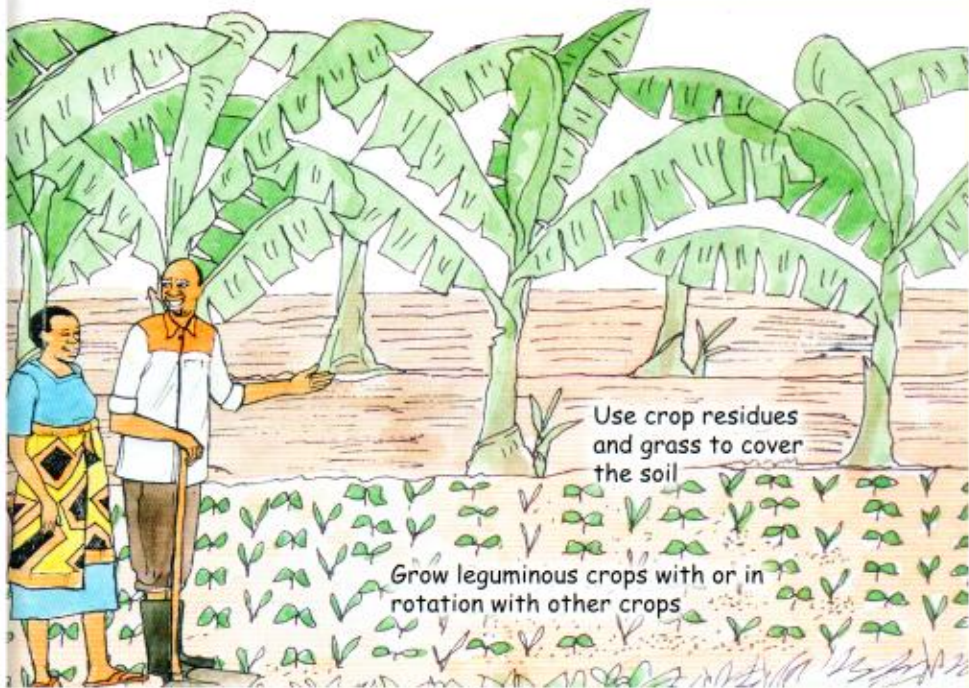




## 4 Feeding the soil

Apply appropriate measures to feed the soil, which then will feed the plants. A fertile soil will support good crop growth.

*How?*



Use crop residues and grass to cover the soil

Grow leguminous crops with or in rotation with other crops



Apply animal manure and compost



Grow crops that feed the soil and dig them before they flower

## 5 Keeping crops healthy

Provide good growing conditions for crops so that they are strong against pests, diseases and weeds.

*How?*

### MANAGING PLANT PESTS, DISEASES & WEEDS



## 6 Other requirements

- You can use non-organic seeds, when organic seeds are not available, except GMO.
- To produce organic mushrooms, use only organic or natural materials
- Where using animals for work on the farm, feed them well, give good housing and protect them from infections.



In this brochure you can see some of the requirements of the East African Organic Products Standard. This standard was adopted by the East African Community in April 2007 as EAS 456:2007. It thereby became an official standard for Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. More information about organic farming and the practical application of these requirements can be obtained from;



#### NOGAMU

Plot 957 Galukande Close, Off Tank Hill Road, Muyenga, P. O. Box 70071, Clock Tower, Kampala, Uganda.  
Tel: +256 312 264039  
admin@nogamu.org.ug  
www.nogamu.org.ug



#### TOAM

Shaurimoyo/Lindi Str, Mariam Towers Bldg, P.O. Box 70089, Dar es salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 732 975 799  
toam@kilimohai.org www.kilimohai.org



#### BOAM

P.O Box 2251, Bujumbura - Burundi  
Tel +25779910345  
Email:sibad53@gmail.com



#### KOAN

ICIPE Complex, Kasarani Road  
P.O. Box 72461-00200 Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 572 506836/787 557908  
Email: koansecretariat@elci.org  
www.koan.co.ke



#### ROAM

B.P. 6886 Kigali - Rwanda  
Tel +250 788558027  
Email: rwandaorganicmovement@gmail.com



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#### Other brochures in the series

- Livestock production
- Beekeeping
- Processing of organic products