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?

- Plant some trees within crop fields
- Protect natural forests & bushes around the farm
- Protect and plant locally adapted varieties of crops
- Grow more than one crop on the field
- Plant natural fences and hedges around the crop fields
- Protect ponds and wetlands on the farm

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?

- Use crop residues and grass to cover the soil
- Plant crops that cover the soil
- Construct ridges across the slope and plant them with grass
- Grow crops across the slope
- Do not burn crop residues
- Use crop residues as mulch
- Dig pits and ponds to collect rain water
- Plant trees to protect the soil from strong wind
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

- Feed the soil to get strong plants
- Remove infected plants
- Monitor your crops regularly for any pests or diseases
- Use natural mixtures
- Use clean tools
- Use traps to capture moving pests
- Use clean healthy seeds and planting materials
- Remove all weeds early before they produce seeds

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

**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

**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

This material is produced with funding from;

**Sida**
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

**Other brochures in the series**
- Livestock production
- Beekeeping
- Processing of organic products