Processing of Organic Products

Introducing the
East African Organic Products Standard
1 Choosing products for organic processing
Use organic and natural products for organic processing and separate them from non-organic products throughout processing, storage and transportation.

How?

- Clearly label all materials and equipment used for carrying and storing organic products.
- Check that raw materials are declared as organic in delivery papers, before using them for an organic product.

2 Adding ingredients into organic products
Use organic or natural ingredients in organic products.

- Water and edible salt can be used as ingredients
- Where non-organic ingredients are used, indicate on the packaging the quantities of those ingredients.
3 Preserving organic products
To protect processed organic products from spoilage, use only natural methods and materials.

**How?**

- Do not use equipment that contains substances which may contaminate the product
- Use suitable temperature and conditions for storage

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4 Using additives and other processing aids
Use materials and substances obtained from natural or organic sources as additives and processing aids.

**For example:**

- Enzymes and micro-organisms can be used in organic products, except genetically engineered micro-organisms
- Do not use artificial colours, flavours, and taste-enhancing materials
5 Adding extra nutrients
Where legally required, you may use minerals, vitamins, amino acids and other nitrogen compounds to improve the nutritional status of the products.

6 Using clean packaging materials
Use clean boxes, bags or crates (which have not been used for non-organic products and materials like fertilizers or pesticides) for carrying, storing or final packing of any organic products.

For example:

- Do not use packaging materials treated with chemicals
- Use naturally-derived or environmentally-friendly packaging
- Avoid Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and other chlorine-based plastics if possible
Maintaining hygiene and minimising pests
Ensure that all areas used for handling, processing and storing of organic products are clean and well protected from pests.

**How?**

- Prevent entry of rodents and other animals
- Regularly wash, mop and clean inside the working areas
- Get clean and proper clothing for workers
- Keep the surroundings clean

Conventional pest control (e.g. fumigations) may be used for pest control, under the following conditions:
- Remove all organic products before treatment is done
- Take precautions to minimise contamination of equipment and other facilities
- Use a qualified person or organisation
- Keep records of the date, substances used and areas treated.
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:

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