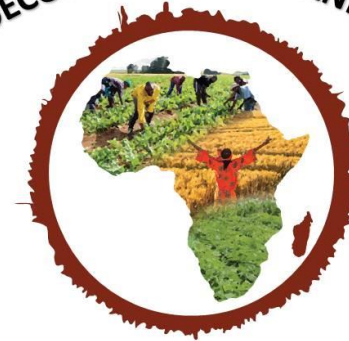


TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA
AGROECOLOGY and ORGANIC TRADE



Reducing Synthetic Pesticides and Fertilizers

ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION OF LOCAL CERTIFICATION BODIES

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Background

- Development of local organic certification services in East Africa has been going on for almost 20 years.
- Some CB received support in their earlier phase of establishment.
- Some offered inspection services for established international CBs.
- CBs owned standards or worked with national standards.
- CBs had their own organic mark.

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Harmonization of EAOPS and the EAOM

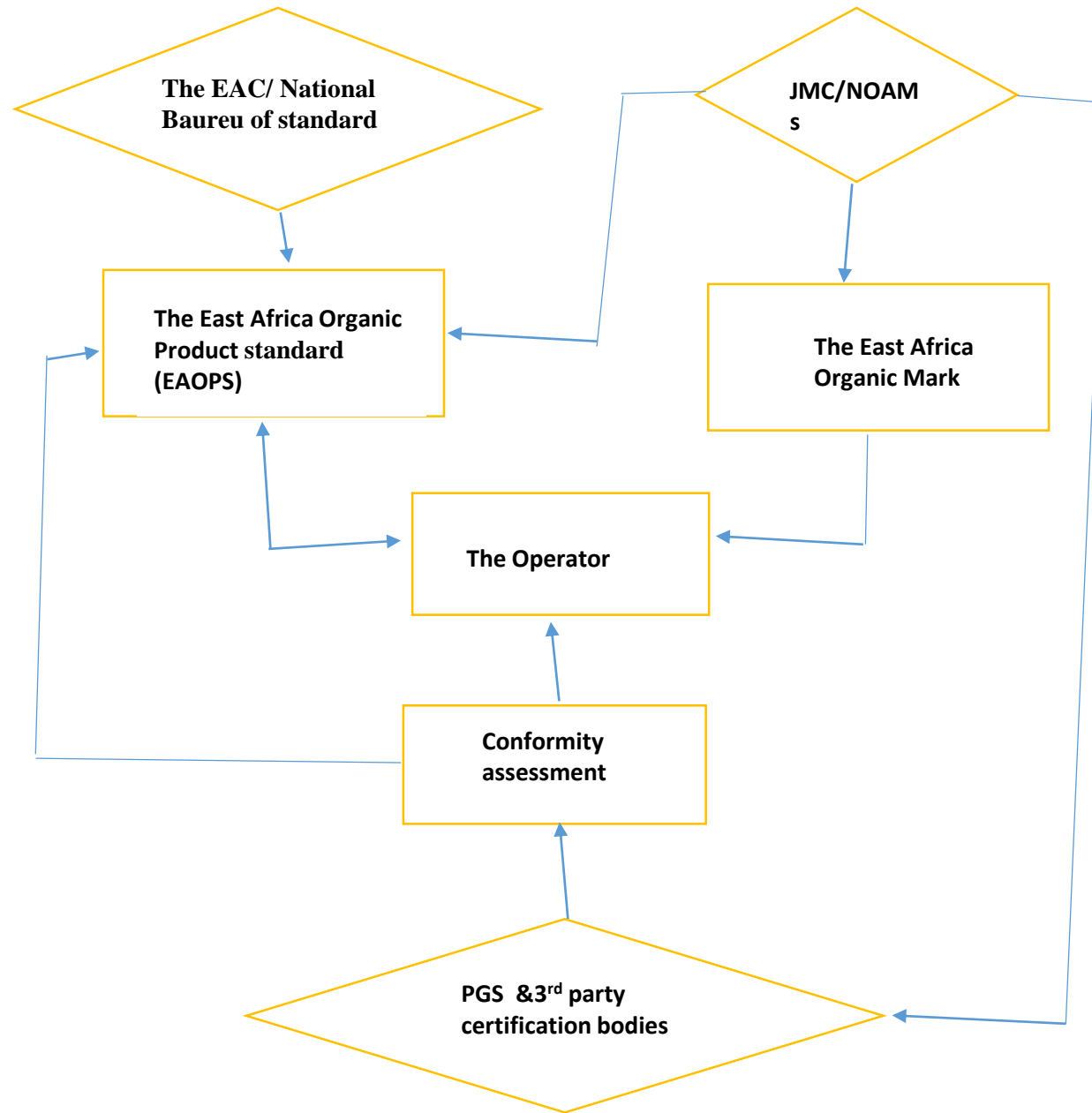
- Regional standard harmonized min 2007
- East Africa Organic mark Launched .
- With aim of promoting local and regional trade and achieve equivalency with other regulations
- CBs agreed to drop their individual standards and inspect on EAOPS.
- Procedure for use of the MARK, Including sublicensing agreement developed.
- JMC established with clear mandate



Current data

County	Crop land (Hectars)	Wild Collection (Hectars)	Producers	Growth of organic land in last 10 years.
Tanzania	278478	2418740	148610	216287
Uganda	262282	158328	210352	-33921
Kenya	172225	151425	44966	167589
Rwanda	1276	12	9002	764
Burundi	83	0	35	83

Source: Fibl survey 2019



Local CBs in East Africa

- There are 6 local CBs: 4 in Kenya, 1 Uganda and 1 in Tanzania.
- Most of the them face a lot of challenges
 - Low demand for local certification services
 - Unhealthy competition
 - Limited certification scheme options
 - Credibility
- Need strengthening for organic sector development .
- Reduce dependence on international CBs in long term

Accreditations

- Typical accreditation is based on ISO 17065
- Local CBs have had attempt on achieving international accreditation with e.g. EU through project support(OSEA)
- UGOCERT was EU accredited.
- Renewal of accreditation became problematic : finance, local demand for services , bureaucracy and time consuming
- Difficult to sustain for most CBs serving the EAC market

Why alternative accreditation of local CBs

- Organic claim on products in EAC markets is either through PGS or third party certification.
- Main method of communicating claim is through EAOM
- PGS AND EAOM are supervised by NOAMS
- Overseen on an EAC wide basis to ensure credibility and consistency across borders.
- Thus scaling up trade.

The Approach

- Likened to PGS approach where participation of key stakeholders in the process is key.
- Based on jointly agreed system and protocols
- Include peer review system
- Common checklist
- Appeal and complaint management system.
- Periodic review of the accreditation system
- Relevant to local market
- Reducing the cost burden

Objectives of the approach

- Promote regional trade in organic product through credible certification services
- Promote the implementation of East Africa Organic Products Standard
- Promote the use of the East Africa Organic Mark as a main method of communication of organic claims in the EAC and beyond
- Institutionalize a local organic guarantee system under the supervision of the Joint Management Committee of the EAOM Secretariat for sector credibility and growth

Roles of Certification Bodies

- Participation in the development of the accreditation system, including but not limited to:
 - Standardized inspection/certification reporting format
 - Input materials review system
 - Peer review methodology and related reporting
 - Periodic review of the accreditation system

Cont.

- Commitment to follow the accreditation requirements
- Paying fees as mutually agreed with the JMC and sufficient to administer the alternative accreditation system
- Participation in peer reviews
- Reporting of complaints received to the JMC
- Handling of appeals together with the JMC
- Promotion of the East Africa Organic Mark
- Maintenance of business ethics (confidentiality, impartiality, and consistency) elaborated through a mutually agreed and signed Code of Practice

CBs Work Ethics

- There shall be no conflict of interest
- CBs shall be free from commercial, financial or other interest that may affect their judgment
- CBs shall not promote any goods or services during the evaluation process
- CBs shall treat all the information gained or gathered during the evaluation process as confidential.

Joint Mark Management Committee.

- Oversight and coordination of the accreditation system for CBs, including:
 - developing and updating accreditation policies and procedures
 - oversight of CB peer review reports
- Monitoring the implementation of accreditation criteria and corrective actions where applicable
- Facilitation of peer reviews
- Collation and management of OGS data
- Promotion of the EAOM and the accreditation services

National Organic Agriculture Movement

- Liaison with local CBs and Bureaus of Standards for regional processes
- Promotion of East Africa Organic Mark at national level
- Training of operators on compliance requirements
- Reporting of complaints received to JMC
- Data collection (operators, EAOM use)
- Licensing of the EAOM at national level
- Representation at JMC.

Others: National bureau of standards/ accreditation authorities

- Support standards development and revision
- Provide advice on accreditation framework and policies
- Support and execute market surveillance and take action against false claims and fraudulent operators.
- Participate in meetings and other events with the other actors in the accreditation system, as appropriate.

So far

- Memorandum of understanding developed between parties
- Signed by 4 Certification bodies.
- Buy in by IFOAM as innovative way of supporting development of local organic guarantee system.
- KENNAS Agreed to give technical advice

Next steps

- Developing and ageing on systems.
 - Standardized inspection/certification reporting format
 - Peer review methodology and related reporting
 - Periodic review of the accreditation system
- Developing and agreeing of fee structure
- Reviews
- Upscaling for adoption
- Continuous improvement

THANK YOU

