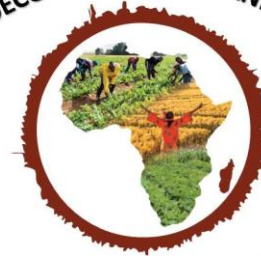


TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA  
AGROECOLOGY and ORGANIC TRADE



*Reducing Synthetic Pesticides and Fertilizers*

# The Legislation and Policy Environment For Ecological Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa



**A Three Country Study Synthesis**

**DR. EDITH KAREKO- MUNENE**

# Case Study 2: Presentation Outline

- **Background/ Project Context – (What, Who When, Why, Where)**
- **Methodology- (How)**
- **Findings**
- **Conclusions and Recommendations**

# Public Policy Making Defined:

- When government decides to take action in response to problems or issues raised by people or groups as they operate in our political system

**History of the Issue**

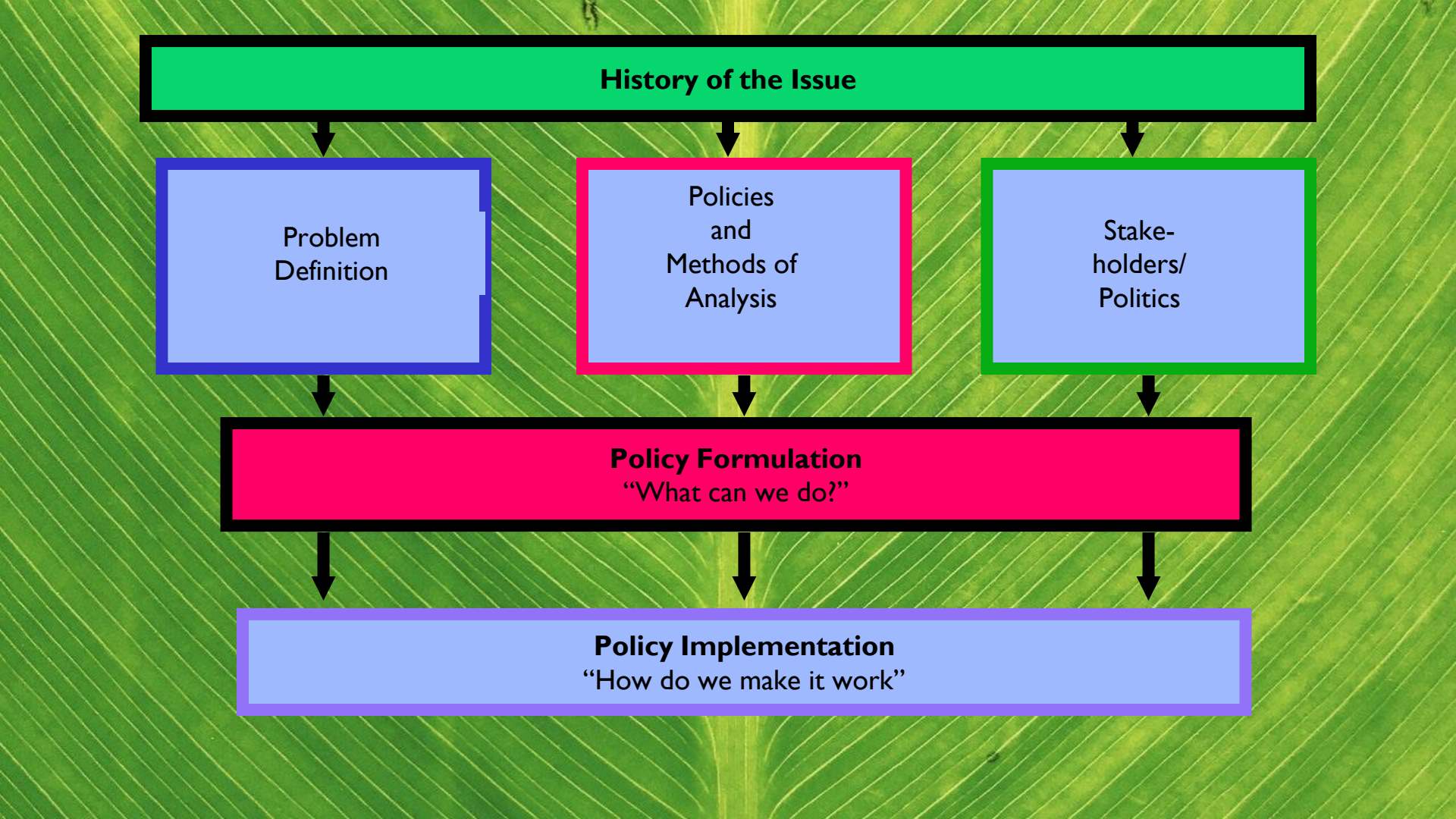
Problem  
Definition

Policies  
and  
Methods of  
Analysis

Stake-  
holders/  
Politics

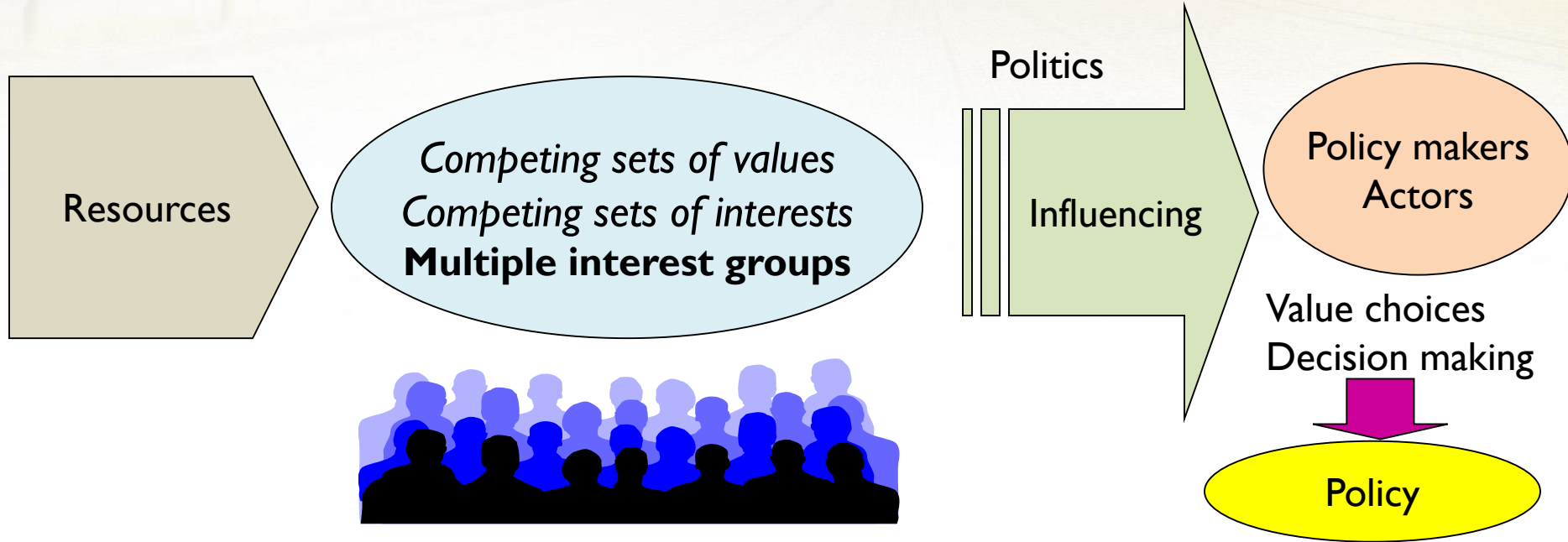
**Policy Formulation**  
“What can we do?”

**Policy Implementation**  
“How do we make it work”



# Policy & Politics

(Mason, Talbott & Leavitt, 1993)



# The Legislation And Policy Environment For Ecological Organic Agriculture In Ethiopia, Kenya And Uganda

- **What:** A study of the legislation and policy formulation processes in Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in Eastern Africa.
- The study was commissioned by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) in collaboration with PELUM Kenya on behalf of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).
- **When, Why & Where:** This exploratory multi- country assessment conducted in September and October 2018 sought to identify some of the factors that could facilitate or limit policy formulation processes in ecological organic agriculture (EOA) in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.



# Specifically, the study was carried out to assess and establish:

- The role of different institutions, including government, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in the EOA initiatives
- Conduct a mapping of the existing EOA policy structures that can be strengthened in each country
- Establish the challenges that the countries are facing as they aim to get the national organic policies formulated/ enacted
- Review available policies (if any) to determine the gaps and opportunities for change
- Make recommendations for possible intervention for promoting EOA initiatives.

# Methodology (How)

## The Sample And Data Sources

The study utilized primary and secondary sources of information.

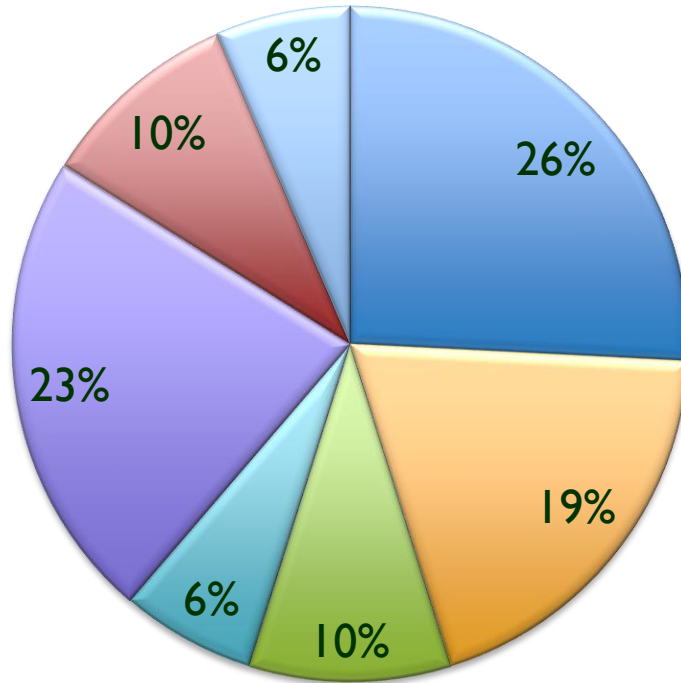
- **Face-to-face key informants interviews**
- **In depth case study reviews** of at least one case on successful development and implementation of specific policy/policies in the agriculture sector during the last five or so years from each country were undertaken

Three distinct classes of N= 31 stakeholders were contacted.

- **Beneficiaries/ Primary Stakeholders** – people the ecological organic agriculture (EOA) initiative(s) aims to reach and who have been involved in EOA project activities to date.
- **Partners** – those who have knowledge of EOA and/or its projects and beneficiaries but who are not directly involved in policy development/formulation. This will be a wide ranging group and includes, co-financiers, donors and NGOs.
- **Policy Development & Management** – those who are directly involved in developing and implementing policies including think tanks, government officials, legislature, managers, staff, technical advisors and sub-contracted implementers



## % Key Informants Contacted



- Practitioners (26%)
- Policy Makers (19%)
- Development Partners (10%)
- Marketers/Traders (6%)
- Think Tanks/ Capacity Building (23%)
- Consumers (10%)

# The Policy Elements Assessed

The assessment judgment here was based on a composite analysis of evidence, the observations of key informants, and the examination of four elements of the EOA/OA policy formulation process, namely:

- Policy Element 1: Existence of Guiding Policy Formulation Approach/Model
- Policy Element 2: Draft Policy Formulation, Coordination and Finalization
- Policy Element 3: Inclusivity and Stakeholder Consultation
- Policy Element 4: Evidence-based Policy Formulation

# Main Findings – The Report Card

- **Finding 1:** The Eastern African Countries are at very different stages in their organic policy formulation processes. All the three countries lack final national organic agriculture policies.
- **Finding 2:** The absence of permanent technical and administrative capacity for policy development is the greatest constraint to policy formulation and consequent implementation
- **Finding 3:** Governments, private sectors, and civil societies require considerable inclusivity, goodwill, and transparency to meaningfully engage in policy formulation and key advocacy efforts
- **Finding 4:** Political commitment by governments to evidence-based analysis; Country assessments show that the practice of evidence-based policy formulation remains very limited or absent in Eastern Africa. Reliable data and independent capacity is very limited.



**ETHIOPIA**

# Current Status

As of October 2018, Ethiopia did not have an explicit draft national organic agriculture policy (NOAP) document. It has instead an Ethiopia's Agriculture Sector Policy and Investment Framework(2010-2020)that does not address/ mention ecological organic agriculture/ organic agriculture

Rating: (red) Weak).



**KENYA**



# Current Status

- As of October 2018, a draft policy aimed at streamlining and promoting organic farming in the country was in the pipeline, after almost a decade-long wait.
- The draft of the organic agriculture policy developed by agricultural experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) is complete and ready to be deliberated upon by the Cabinet after which it will be tabled for debate in Parliament.
- In a nutshell, the process of drafting/formulating the national organic agriculture policy begun in 2009 and is deemed complete.

Rating: (yellow) Modest).



**UGANDA**

# Current Status

- As of October 2018, and after fifteen years have gone by, the draft national organic agriculture policy (NOAP) document for Uganda had been reviewed and was ready to be discussed at the cabinet level.
- On top of that, the action plan/ implementation plan for the NOAP is also ready.
- That said, one major step remained before the draft policy could become an Act – a framework for further guidance and regulations among other things
- Uganda leads the way in terms of national government commitment to the ecological organic agriculture sector among the three countries.

Rating: (green) Substantial).

# Some Conclusions & Key Recommendations

- **An EOA policy needs to be coherent** with other economy-wide policies in order to create an overall enabling environment conducive to achieving multiple goals
- **A significant shift** towards long-term strategic investments like EOA in each country is key
- **EOA policies need to target country-specific constraints** to development and to place greater emphasis on enabling well-functioning markets and innovation systems, and on investing more in people and infrastructure
- **Countries need to have appropriate institutional frameworks** with sufficient capacity in terms of skills and resources to formulate and effectively implement the right EOA policy decisions.
- **More Actors Need to Be Involved** in Policy Formulation Processes
- **Wide adoption of EOA brand e.g. Kilimohai Mark is needed** – Also- “Buy Ecological Organic Products” awareness, advocacy, and marketing campaigns as a way to promote the benefits of consuming/buying ecological organically grown foods.

- **A regional organic policy** should also be developed and mainstreamed to ensure a harmonized approach in Africa. Regional policies or frameworks, if implemented with greater EOA/OA emphasis, can support the promotion of EOA/OA in each country.
- **The significant challenges** to democratic and effective EOA/OA policy formulation in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda can be summarized in two broad categories: **systemic** issues and **procedural** issues.
- The study **should be viewed as a first step** in a review and report process that involves policy formulation processes in multiple countries and with different key EOA/OA stakeholders.
- **The study recommended selected further action items** that can be conducted in partnership between Biovision Africa Trust and the study's stakeholders among others.
- **+++The final study report is available+++.**

# Closing Remarks

## The Frogs

- At NASA, in the USA, there is a beautiful poster of a bee, which reads: “Aerodynamically, the body of a bee is not made to fly; the good thing is that the bee does not know.” [Mary Kay Ash](#)
- How about we vow to pay zero attention to the those who say it can't be done?**





# Thanks!

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