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Financial Partners



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Project Flyer



ProEco Africa



Productivity and Profitability of Organic and Conventional Farming Systems

A Comparative Analysis
in Sub-Saharan Africa (2013 – 2016)

www.ProEcoAfrica.net



Ecological organic agriculture farming practices are increasingly being recognized for achieving food security in Africa.



ProEcoAfrica will generate scientific evidence on the productivity and profitability of ecological organic agriculture.



Smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa will benefit from suitable policies in support of sustainable agriculture.

Background

Ecological organic agriculture (EOA) practices are increasingly being recognized as important to improving food security in Africa, especially in challenging environments for the smallholder sector. Recent studies provide some evidence that EOA can be more profitable and more sustainable in the long term than do most conventional production systems. The African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government Decision in 2011 on organic farming (also referred to in Africa as EOA) underscores the growing recognition of the positive role played by EOA in addressing food insecurity and poverty in Africa. Following this high-level decision, an EOA Initiative has been developed aiming to mainstream the practices into national policies, plans and strategies by 2025.

Despite the availability of some evidence, solid data on the benefits of EOA practices and systematic information on their drawbacks in Africa are still lacking for many contexts. As a result many farmers, advisors, scientists and government officials are still uncertain on whether EOA can markedly improve yields and significantly help to reduce production gaps and increase farm profits in Africa compared with high-input agriculture systems. Comparative research of EOA and conventional farming systems is therefore urgently required to address these data and knowledge gaps.

Development Goal

The ProEcoOrganicAfrica Project will contribute to improved rural livelihoods, including food, nutrition and income security, in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) through climate-smart intensification of agricultural systems.

Project Purpose

In close alignment to EOA and in close consultation with EOA stakeholders and with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), ProEcoOrganicAfrica will generate scientific evidence and knowledge on the productivity, profitability and sustainability of EOA in comparison to conventional systems in Ghana and Kenya. Sound conclusions and recommendations will be drawn on the potential of EOA to help farmers, especially women, to be more economically successful and resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change and socio-economic challenges.

Expected Outcomes

Outcome 1: Increased availability of scientific and sound evidence on the potential of intensified organic agriculture to improve and sustain the incomes and food and nutrition security of smallholder farming households.

Outcome 2: Organic practitioners have increased capacity and knowledge for effective promotion of innovative organic agriculture practices through use of research information.

Outcome 3: Policies towards ecological organic agriculture are supported at national, sub-regional and regional levels through the EOA Initiative.

Key Activities

The ProEcoOrganicAfrica objectives will be achieved through implementation of the following key activities:

- › Review of comparative literature and existing data sets on the productivity and profitability of organic and conventional production systems
- › Design of a research methodology and data collection strategy for selected organic and conventional production systems
- › Collection of quantitative and qualitative data at field, farm and sector levels for the selected production systems
- › Analysis of data, synthesis of results and dissemination
- › Promotion of networking among stakeholders
- › Support to EOA on policy related activities

Project Beneficiaries

ProEcoOrganicAfrica findings are expected to facilitate decision making and practice by farmers, extension agents, research and development organizations, academic institutions, and national and regional ecological organic networks, as well as public and private policy and decision makers in SSA.

Project Timeframe

The project will be implemented from July 2013 to December 2016.