

About KOAN

Name and Acronym: Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)

Country or region of activity: Kenya

Date of Creation: September 2004

Mission and objectives: KOAN's mission is to coordinate, facilitate and provide leadership and professional services to all members and other stakeholders in the Organic Agriculture industry in Kenya.

Our activities are based on our five thematic areas:

1. Production. Issues: markets, quality and quantity production, consistency
2. Marketing. Issues: this would include sourcing, consistency, quality, certification at local and international market level
3. Certification issues: Costs, local capacity, credibility
4. Lobbying and Advocacy. Issues: consumer awareness, government policy
5. Training issues: Mainstreaming of Organic Agriculture in the education curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary.

Organization structure:

KOAN is organized into five sub committees namely: Production, Training, Certification and Standards, Marketing, Lobbying, Advocacy and Networking.

The Board has 14 members that are representatives of the five sub committees. The Board is elected by members and is responsible for identifying the main challenges facing the organic sector, prioritizing them, and identifying the means of addressing.

Membership: 120 member organizations and individuals.

Members of staff: 6 members of staff

Achievements in the country or region:

- Managed to map the organic sector in Kenya, who is where growing or buying what. Over 185,500 ha and 600 under conversion.
- Trained and facilitated groups to access organic markets locally
- Trained and working with over 50 others on the export market
- Facilitated workshops looking into the harmonization of training programs in organic agriculture in Kenya.
- Created public awareness on the benefits of Organic Agriculture through events, such as World Social Forum, Ecofest 05 and 06, Kenya National Organic Week, farmers market, radio, press releases and our very own magazine KILIMOHAI
- Lobbied and participated in policy processes leading to development of a concept paper on Organic agriculture policy
- Managed to stop the process of passing a weak Biosafety Bill in Kenya by working within a coalition, Kenya Biodiversity Coalition

Sources of funding: Mainly funded by HIVOS

Web: <http://www.koan.co.ke/>