

The first year of the OSEA project completed

The OSEA project has now completed its first year and it has completed most planning and organization and is not in full swing with implementation. The Management Committee of the project had its third meeting 17 November in Nairobi. It is envisioned that there will be two committee meetings 2012 and 2013 respectively.

► Inspectors trained in Rwanda and Burundi

A one-week training for inspectors was conducted in Butare, Rwanda end of November. Trainers were Gunnar Rundgren, [Grolink AB](#) and Leonard Mtama from [Tancert](#). There were 10 trainees, 6 from Burundi and 4 from Rwanda; 4 women and 6 men. Most participants were from the government sector; 5 out of 6 from Burundi (all from BBN, the standards body) and 2 out of 4 from Rwanda (from the Minagri and RBS). BOAM had one representative, ROAM two and one came from the private company POSADA. ROAM helped with the organization.



► Ecological Organic Agriculture Conference - Unleashing the Potential of Organic Farming in Africa

Organized by IFOAM, the African Union and the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), the international conference titled 'Ecological Organic Agriculture: The Alternative for Africa' was held at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from November 15- 16, 2011. Over 200 participants from 24 countries attended.

In addition to building awareness of accessible, productive and resilient organic farming systems, the conference helped build the alliances required to capitalize on the [African Union's Resolution on Organic Farming](#). Presentations, the conference declaration draft and other documents are available on the [conference website](#).

► UgoCert recognised by the European Union

The organic certification body in Uganda, [Ugocert](#) was approved as one of the first thirty organisations to conduct organic certification outside the EU. The approval is published in the [Commission implementing regulation \(EU\) No 1267/2011 of 6 December 2011](#). This is a great accomplishment by Ugocert. OSEA helped a bit in the process by contributing to the accreditation costs.

► IFOAM approved the East African Organic Products Standard

Following the meeting of the IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee in September in Korea, IFOAM approved 8 standards for the IFOAM Family of Standards. Among those was the East African Organic Product Standard.

► Towards EAOPS recognition by the EU

Just in time before the deadline of 30 October, UgoCert submitted a request for approval of the East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS) to be recognized by the EU as equivalent to the EU regulation. An equivalence assessment of the EAOPS has been made by the International Organic Accreditation Services, [IOAS](#), which shows that the EAOPS is equivalent to the EU regulation when some special guidance is included. The reasons for that it is UgoCert that makes the application, is that there is no provision under the EU system for the East African Community, the owner of the EAOPS, to submit it. The efforts to have the East African Organic Products Standard recognised by the EU are also supported by the Global Organic Market Access, [GOMA](#) project

► Menshi mu mafumbire yoherezwa muri Africa yica ubuzima-Press conference in Rwanda

At the time of the mission to Rwanda, we organised a press conference where five representatives of media participated. Radio Huguka made a two hour broadcast as a result of the press conference. The web site [Umuseke](#) gave it a lot of attention. The purpose was to increase awareness of organic agriculture in Rwanda.

► WIPO and TSPN

The Regional Coordinator of the project, Patricia Wangong'u participated in a trade mark workshop organized by World Intellectual Property Organization, [WIPO](#) in Mombasa in November. She also [presented](#) the East African Organic Products Standard and the OSEA project at the [Trade Standards Practitioner's Network](#) conference in Washington DC 30 November to 1 December.

► Meeting of the National Organic Agriculture Forum in Tanzania

Thirty representatives of government and private sector participated in the National Organic Agriculture Forum, organised by [Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement](#), supported by OSEA. The Forum made progress, in particular for moving research on organic agriculture ahead in Tanzania.

► Guidance for certification

Kilimohai Ltd, Uganda, has been awarded a contract by the OSEA project to make brochures explaining the certification process. There will be one brochure for single farm operations, one for processors, one for wild production and bee keeping and one for groups with internal controls systems.

► Regional Trade plan approved

OSEA approved a plan for a regional trade component with the purpose of establishing regional trade links with involvement of at least one supplying company from Burundi; two supplying companies from Rwanda and four supplying companies from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda respectively. The project component will start in 2012.

► **The Nairobi International trade fair**

The Nairobi International trade fair was held from 26th September to 2nd of October. The OSEA partner Kenya Organic Agriculture Network, [KOAN](#), had a stand and information desk where information on EAOPS, EAOM and Organic market was shared. Two TV breakfast talks were held as well as two radio talks.

► **Documentary on organic produced in Uganda**

The National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda, [NOGAMU](#), is producing a documentary on organic production which is going to be aired on two local TV channels.

► **Selecting PGS pioneers**

The national coordinators of the OSEA project have been busy selecting a dozen of farmer groups which will be the pioneer groups for development of [Participatory Guarantee Systems](#).

► **Upcoming events**

The East African Organic Products Standard will be presented by David Eboku from the Uganda National Bureau of Standards in the [GOMA conference](#) in Nuremberg 13-14 February 2012.

The OSEA project will support participation in the **2nd African Organic Conference** in Lusaka 2-4 May. The overall objective of the conference is to report and further promote mainstreaming of organic agriculture in African Government policies, in African intergovernmental organizations as well as among development partners. The conference is organized by OPPAZ together with African Union, IFOAM, UNCTAD and Grow Organic Africa. More information about the conference at: <http://africanorganicconference.com/> The Management Committee of OSEA will schedule its last meeting linked to the event.

A launch of the National Organic Agriculture Action plan is expected to take place in Rwanda in March. The project leader will visit Rwanda and Burundi in conjunction with this and some workshops will be organized by BOAM and ROAM in conjunction with this.

The first review of the project will take place in May 2012 with the donor, [Sida](#).

The OSEA II Project is implemented by [IFOAM](#) and the National Organic Agriculture Movements in Burundi (BOAM), Kenya ([KOAN](#)), Rwanda (ROAM), Tanzania ([TOAM](#)) and Uganda ([NOGAMU](#)) in close cooperation with the organic stakeholders and governments in the East African countries. It is financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, [Sida](#). The project started 1 November 2010 and will run up to 31 December 2013.

► [Link to IFOAM page for more information about the project](#)