



African Organic Conference 2009 (May 19th-22nd,2009)

“Fast tracking sustainable development in Africa through harnessing Organic Agriculture and Bio-technology”

Conference Rationale

The Conference will focus on clearly bringing out attributes of Organic Agriculture as a science relevant to sustainable development, poverty eradication and assured food security in Africa. Organic Agriculture impacts on all development sectors and elements of sustainability in a characteristic way, which is seriously needed to achieve lasting solutions to factors limiting economic growth on the continent.

Furthermore, the conference will explore Organic agriculture as a science in contrast to other schools of thought, and how it relates to Biotechnology in contributing towards sustainable agricultural and economic development. Therefore, the conference will exhibit up to date scientific innovations and other development initiatives achieved over years. Participants will share and exchange that knowledge, which is very much needed for national development of the Organic Agriculture sector and Bio-safety programmes.

Scope

The conference will target all scientific and other fields, which contribute to sustainable agriculture and economic development in Africa. It will be open to all African stakeholders and their partners in development involved in the agriculture sector and other related sectors.

Eligibility

Participation will be open to all scientists, industry and the private sector actors, who are involved in strategic activities, geared towards achieving lasting agricultural and economic development, as well as set Millennium Development Goals.

African Organic Agriculture Conference Programme, 19th- 22nd May 2009

Sheraton Hotel, Kampala

Background

The conference will have three different activities. It will have a field tour on the first day. This will help participants to gain some insights into organic agriculture achievements and gaps of the host country. The second day will focus on presentation of general nature organic agriculture and related fields papers. The third day will be for scientific research papers presentation. The fourth day will concentrate on open space discussions to enable a two way participatory exchange of organic agriculture knowledge. This session will create interaction between farmers, traders, consumers, certifiers, trainers and researchers, who will discuss issues pertinent to strengthening Organic Agriculture in Africa. On the same day, discussions will be held to finalize preparations for the Network for Organic Agriculture Research in Africa (NOARA) and the African Organic Centre of Excellence (AOCE). An exhibition of various organic agriculture achievements will run from the second day to the third day. General Sessions, in plenary and on key issues affecting the industry, will start everyday, that is, before more specific sessions are conducted in groups.

DAY 0: 18th May 2009

Participants will start registering at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala from 2.00pm

DAY 1: 19th May 2009

Field Tour in three groups (*Participants are requested to register for this activity at initial registration*)

8.30am Departure for:

- a) **Research and Training Institutions:** Crocodile farm, Uganda Martyrs University and African Organic Center of Excellence, Masaka Organic Producers
- b) **Smallholder farms and Group Certification:** Anam Cara Animal Farm, Suluma Foods Ltd ICS Farmers' Group
- c) **Marketing and Processing:** Bio Fresh Exporting company, Organic Movement Local Market Shop, Phinix Textile Industry

6.30 pm: Official Opening and Conference Dinner

DAY 2: 20th May 2009

Papers on General Issues of Organic Agriculture and related areas

Theme: Organic Agriculture is key to achieving Millenium Development Goals by 2015

8.30am- Opening paper: The contribution of Organic Agriculture to achieving Millenium Development Goals (Dr. Sophia Twaroq, UNCTAD)

9.00 – 10.30am Session 1: Mitigating climate change (Papers 1-3)

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

11.00 – 12.30pm Session 2: Offering appropriate mechanisms to eradicate poverty (Papers 4- 6)

LUNCH BREAK (1hr.30min)

2.00 – 3.30 pm Session 3: Meeting current demands for healthy and safe food (Papers 7-9)

HEALTH BREAK (30min) by Exhibitions Area: Opening of exhibitions

4.00 – 5.30 pm Session 4: Enabling policy and support for achieving MDGs in Africa (Papers 10- 12)

DAY 3: 21st May 2009

More Specific Organic Agriculture Research papers and related areas

Theme: Organic Agriculture is enabled by research to have impact on human development and maintenance of a sound global wide ecosystem order

8.30 am - Opening paper: Research informs successful management of systems and is key to Organic Agriculture technological advancement

9.00 – 10.30 am Session 1: System wide research-ecosystem interactions (Papers 13- 15)

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

11.00 – 12.30pm Session 2: Improving breeds and varieties (Papers 16- 18)

LUNCH BREAK (1hr.30min) and Visits to exhibitions

2.00 – 3.30 pm Session 3: Pest management challenges and solutions (Papers 19- 21)

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

4.00 – 5.30 pm Session 4: Post-harvest handling, processing and marketing (Papers 22- 24)

DAY 4: 22nd May 2009

Open space participatory discussions

Theme: Participatory approaches and networking form basis for a successful Organic Agriculture sub-sector

8.30 am – Opening paper: Indigenous and farmer lead knowledge contribution to enhancing the sustainability of Organic Agriculture in Africa

9.00 – 10.30am Session 1

Plenary Discussion: The future of Organic Agriculture in Africa amidst current bio-technological advancements, sanitary regulations and trade demands

Group Discussions (*To identify pros and cons, and make recommendations*)

Group 1: Effects of current biotechnological advancements (advantages and disadvantages)

Group 2: Effects of new sanitary regulations on OA development/market access

Group 3: Effects of other non-tariff barriers on OA development/market access

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

11.00 – 12.30pm Session 2

Plenary Discussion: The need, nature and role of networking among African Organic Agriculture Stakeholders

Group Discussions (*To explore the topical area and make recommendations*)

Group 1: Needs for/of networking

Group 2: Appropriate nature/structure for the African OA network

Group 3: Responsibilities of the African OA network

LUNCH BREAK (1hr.30min) and Visits to exhibitions

2.00 – 3.30 pm Session 3

Plenary Discussion: The need, nature and role of the African Organic Center of Excellence

Group Discussions (*To explore the topical area and make recommendations*)

Group 1: Needs for/of African Organic Center of Excellence

Group 2: Appropriate nature/structure for the African Organic Center of Excellence

Group 3: Responsibilities of the African Organic Center of Excellence

HEALTH BREAK (30min)

4.00 – 5.00 pm Session 4

4.00 – 4.30 pm: Kick-starting the African Organic Center of Excellence (AOCE) and the Network for Organic Agriculture Research in Africa (NAORA) and the African Organic Movements Network

4.30 – 5.00 pm: Closing remarks

5.00 – Closing Cocktail

DAY 4: 23rd May 2009

Departure

OR

9.00am- Free trip to the source of the Nile and Mabira Tropical Forest

Conference Registration Form

(Please send this form duly filled by January 31st 2009)

Please email completed form to africanorganicconference@nogamu.org.ug or send printed copy to Fax +256 312 264 040

Name	
Title	
Organization	
Address	
City	
Country	
Postal Code	
Office Phone	
Mobile	
Fax	
Email	
Fees:	
Registration Fees	\$ 200
<p>I plan to attend the following Field trips: (Refer to the programme & Tick as appropriate)</p> <p>a) Crocodile farm, Uganda Martyrs University and African Organic Center of Excellence, Masaka Organic Producers (MOP) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b) Anam Cara Animal Farm, Sulma Foods Ltd ICS farmers Group <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) African Organic exports (Amfri Farms Ltd), Phenix Logistics Ltd (Organic textiles), NOGAMU Organic Shop Kabalagala and Uchumi Supermarket <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) A visit to the source of the Nile River and Mabira Tropical Forest Reserve (after conference) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
Presentation:	
Oral Paper/Poster:	
Title:	
Abstract: <i>(Please send abstract as separate attachment)</i>	
Payment Options:	
<p>i) Cheques (No personal cheques, except for Institutions) in favour of: NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL MOVEMENT OF UGANDA (NOGAMU) P.O.BOX 70071, CLOCK TOWER, KAMPALA UGANDA.</p> <p>ii) Telegraphic Transfer to: STANBIC BANK UGANDA, P.O.BOX 7131 KAMPALA, UGANDA, in favour of: NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL MOVEMENT OF UGANDA, A/C NO. 7040063267801, CORPORATE BRANCH, SWIFT CODE: SBICUGKX (All bank charges to be covered by the sender)</p> <p>iii) Pay Cash only at NOGAMU offices</p>	
Deadline for Registration:	
Please note that the deadline for registration is January 31st 2009.	
Date	Signature

Contacts:

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