

Productivity and Growth in Organic Value Chains (ProGrOV)

Institutional Framework: Status and Prospects for Tanzania Organic Sector Development

POLICY BRIEF

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Overview

This policy brief is intended to contribute to the process of designing policy for organic sector in Tanzania. It is believed what is presented suffice to prepare a more conducive environment for organic production and marketing in Tanzania for both internal and export markets.

Introduction

History shows that the earliest organic garden in Tanzania was introduced in Peramiho mission in 1898 (Mshana, 2014). In 1990s the Government of Tanzania launched a campaign that aimed at promoting organic agriculture and related services. In turn, the efforts managed to attract donor support. For example, in 1994 a program called Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa (EPOPA) was created by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for the aim of exporting organic products from Africa (Life, 2008).

In 2009, around 85,366 farmers were active in certified organic farming in Tanzania making it the third largest number of organic farmers in Africa (After Uganda and Ethiopia), and fifth in the world (BTC, 2012). This number grew to 148,610 farmers (Willer & Lernoud, 2016). Total area under organic agriculture was 72,665 ha (Willer & Lernoud, 2016) and grew to 186,537 ha in 2013 (Willer & Lernoud, 2016). This meant a growth of total share of land under organic to the total land from 0.21% to 0.5% of the country's total agricultural land (ibid).

This policy brief intend to show the current status of the institutional framework in organic sector and provide insight on possible improvements so as to better support development of organic sector in Tanzania. The presentation in this policy brief is based on a research conducted in Tanzania mainland and Island of Zanzibar in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Tanga and Unguja regions financed by DANIDA under a project titled Productivity and Growth in Organic Value chain (ProGrOV).

Current Status of Institutional Framework

The current framework is composed of various institutions. Institutions supporting the Organic sector in Tanzania include both government and non-government institutions. Non-government institutions play an important role in promoting organic production as well as marketing. Support of these institutions include, advocacy for organic production and consumption, organizing small holder farmers into groups that at an advance stage forming farmers cooperatives for various purposes including marketing and certification, training on good organic production practices, marketing of organic products and access to inputs. Examples of such institutions include: Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM), Farmers groups, Sustainable Augriculture Tanzania (SAT), Meru Sustainable Land Co. (MESULA) in Arusha and Tanzania and Zanzibar Organic Producers Co. Ltd. (TAZOP) in Zanzibar. Farmers groups or cooperatives are important catalysts and play a key role in promoting organic production especially in ensuring the volumes of organic products are attained for access to markets.



Fig. 1&2: Organic shop in Dar-es-Salaam with a display of organic produce



Fig. 3 Mamba farmers attending cooperative meeting

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Government institutions include Ministry responsible for agriculture development, the main role being formulating policies, rules and regulations in support of the organic agriculture. For example the National Agricultural Policy (URT, 2013) that comprise of policy statements in supporting and promoting organic agriculture in the country as an opportunity towards enhancing national and farm incomes. In addition the government is doing capacity building to industries that produce organic fertiliser (MINJINGU for this case).

Organization of Organic Production



Fig 4. Processing facility



Fig 5. Farmers at a processing facility

Small holder Organic farmers produce organic products either individually or in organized groups. On average farmers are organized into groups of about 25 producers mainly with 0.2 to 1.2 ha of cultivated land. Groups are organized by different organizations as mentioned earlier. Main crops cultivated under organic label include spices (ginger) and vegetables (tomatoes and sweet paper).

MESULA Co. organized 4 groups of about 100 organic producers in total around Arusha. This company had been providing organic inputs, organizing organic production, training, searching for markets and delivering products to the markets. The main delivery points are 1. Farmers market, 2. Supermarkets and 3. Tourist hotels. The company made contract (verbal and written) with, farmers, hotels and supermarket. Farmers' market is organized in Arusha city and is conducted more than once a week in a special sales point at Oikos where farmers produce are brought for sale, mainly to expatriates and middle to high income residents.

TAZOP has organized about 218 farmers in Lushoto and Same districts into Mnazi cooperative in Lushoto with 68 producers and Mamba cooperative with 150 producers in Same so as to produce organic ginger mainly for export to German. The company organized production, training, processing, and delivering products to TANTRAUM tea in Germany and to some local markets. TAZOP made contract with producers and TANTRAUM tea.

Same and Lushoto district councils worked with TOAM and TAZOP to facilitate registration of the cooperatives and to mobilize funds for construction of ginger processing plant in Mamba.

TOAM support organic producers through Farmers Family Learning Groups (FFLGs), linking products to markets, facilitating organic production, inspecting the organic production and issuing organic certificates through Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) facilitating exhibitions, farmers markets, and work hand in hand with donors eg. Denmark, VSOs and other donors.

UWAMWIMA, in Unguja, organize about 2100 producers, 700 being under PGS and the remaining were converting to organic. The organization had been providing organic inputs, organizing organic production, training, searching for markets and delivering products to the markets. The main delivery points were 1. Farmers market, 2. supermarkets and 3. tourist hotels and managed to attain organic sales point at a local market called Darajani Market. The organization made contract (verbal and written) with, farmers, hotels and supermarket. The organization has cold rooms to store farmers produce which they deliver on order to buyers such as tourist hotel, the room is located and the Mkunazini Slave Market in Zanzibar. The organization had outlet selling points at the local markets.

FLORESTER in Kilimanjaro organized about 35 groups of 25 farmers on average. The organization provided producers with training on afforestation and organic production practices, link them to markets (a special organic outlet at Siha and Rombo and supermarket (NAKUMAT).

Usambara Lishe trust is a farmers' organization of between 200-300 producers in Lushoto district, Tanga. The organization link the producers to markets: Steers, MUMs kitchen, Julius Nyerere International Airport, where the main

Mnazi and Mamba cooperative, were established solely for farmers who produce ginger and for the purpose of linking them to various markets. Mnazi cooperative was linking individual farmers to the buyer-TAZOP and played the role of ensuring that the producers adhere to organic standards. Mamba cooperative on the other hand worked as Mnazi cooperative but assumed more active roles by organizing several produce collection centers and facilitating processing of the ginger, it also played active role in entering contract with buyers in both



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organic and conventional markets.

SAT support organization of producers of horticultural crops and spices. They have managed as well to introduce organic produce delivery shop for which farmers collect their produce their to be sold. The shop is located in Morogoro, an eastern region of Tanzania)

Conclusions

The current institution in support of organic sector in Tanzania has facilitated the growth of the sector in many ways. It is noted however, that a lot of effort is directed on the supply side where farmers are targeted and supported to produce organic products. Focus on the demand side, for example creating awareness among consumers including tourist hotels and domestic industries (e.g., food industries) is very limited. Also there has been little support on areas that would ensure sustainability for example in primary and secondary schools and in colleges especially those which prepare personnel to work with the farmers. Increased demand of organic products especially vegetables has the potential to stimulate further organic production and therefore improve smallholder. In spite of all the organizations mentioned; all are being regarded as primary recipients and implementers of the organic standards. They are therefore being inspected and being offered a certificate of compliance by an outside organization. Most of the training institutions, in Tanzania, do not have a program to prepare human resource to be used to boost organic production and markets in and outside the country.

Recommendation for policy implication

- Institutions both government and non-government in support of the organic sector development should design programs and/or advocacy materials to create awareness among consumers aiming at creating demand for organic produce. The range of consumers including, individual households, hotels, restaurants, food industries and other food suppliers. It is advised that the materials should be produced in line with the current development focus.
- Responsible Ministry for agriculture development should put in place rules and regulation in support of inputs for organic agricultural production.
- The current framework of institutions should recognize presence of producer organization within the framework of regulatory authorities to develop the organic sector. This is by specifying some responsibilities that will be performed by the producer organization.
- Promotion of organic sector requires specialized human resources to manage and run the supporting

institution but also to become specialized organic producers. Government and non-government agricultural training institutions therefore should include organic training courses in the current agriculture curriculum.

- It could be of importance if training institutions instill into their curriculum organic training courses so as to prepare human resource for the industry.
- Niche markets are another venture that the government should consider to engage in an innovative ways to tap these markets. In some of the farmers markets such as Kariakoo Market and other large markets a section can be set to exclusively trade in organic products. This will enable awareness creation and increase in demand for the products.

References

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Partners

Makerere University, Uganda
University of Nairobi, Kenya
Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
Aarhus University, Denmark
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS), Denmark

Associated partners

National Organic Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)
Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)

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Further reading:

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For more information visit:

<http://icrofs.dk/en/research/international-re-search/progrov/>



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