
BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST

**ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROJECT 2018
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY
AND HOST TO THE EOA CONTINENTAL STEERING
COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT**

**REPORTING ON THE EOA INITIATIVE SDC
CONTRIBUTION**

	<p>Biovision Africa Trust Annual Report for 2018</p>	<p>Name of Responsible Person: Project Coordinator Dr. David Amudavi Signature and Date: 01/07/2019</p> 
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<p>BvAT Project No.: 81019446</p>	<p>Mainstreaming Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) into National Policies, Strategies and Programmes in Africa 2014-2018</p>
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<p>Reporting Period:</p>	<p>From: January 2018 to December 2018</p>
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BvAT	Biovision Africa Trust
CLO	Country Lead Organization
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
EAC	East Africa Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GIZ	The German Society for International Cooperation (or, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
ICIPE	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
ISD	Institute for Sustainable Development
NOAN	The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria
NOGAMU	National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda
NSC	National Steering Committee
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PIP	Pillar Implementing Partner
PMU	Project Management Unit
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Phase 1 of the EOA Initiative project that started in 2014 ended officially on 31st December 2018. It however, has a No-Cost Extension from January – April 2019. Over the final year of the first phase there was a positive trend towards attainment of EOA goal of mainstreaming the initiative into national policies, plans and programmes with some key highlights outstanding as follows across the project as follows:

- Seven partner countries consistently received financial support in 2018 that enabled them to implement at least 80% of planned activities successfully.
- Partners supported the development of Phase 2 proposal through 90% attendance of validation workshops organized by BvAT in the 2 regions of eastern Africa and west Africa. The validation workshops resulted in the development of Phase 2 Draft proposal as well as the draft development of partners country capacity development plans and a draft for robust M&E framework.
- The year 2018 saw the entrance of BMZ as a new key donor in Africa to support the establishment of knowledge hubs for organic agriculture in 3 African regions (South, West and Eastern). The project aligns to the overall EOA-I framework and particularly in relation to EOA-I practices and knowledge to the stakeholders especially the farmers as well as catalyzing markets and networking. The GIZ funded project thus comes in to supplement the main EOA-I SDC supported component.
- This period achieved the completion of the Partner's Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) exercise with the report being finalized and shared with partners. The purpose of the assignment was to assess each partner's technical, human resources and organizational capacity, identify gaps in its ability to carry out its responsibility as a country lead organization (CLO) or pillar implementation partner (PIP), and draft recommendations for action plans. Partners have developed Capacity Building Plans (Draft). Executing agency has also embarked on addressing weaknesses identified at this level.
- This period saw the end term evaluation exercise of the EOA-I SDC funded project executed with the reports bringing out key recommendations for uptake in Phase 2 including; creating opportunities for scaling up through production market systems; focusing on a value chain development approach; employing due diligence & continuous capacity improvement; developing and employing a robust monitoring & evaluation framework; and motivating funding support arrangements, and employing deliberate efforts to involve women, youth & vulnerable groups.

In spite of the progress made the implementation period was faced by various challenges across the partners like weak organizational structures especially in financial and management controls that continued to exhibit funds risks with some Pillar Implementing Partners like the case of ASPAB in Senegal being faced with disallowed financial transactions that led to refund of funds for the project. The case of NOGAMU the Country Lead Organization (CLO) for Uganda that was ordered to refund project funds disbursed to the organization during this period. Challenges were also experienced in Ethiopia where ISD the CLO of Ethiopia continued to pursue funds lost when PANOS Ethiopia, partner in charge of Pillar 2 collapsed and closed down with project funds in 2016. Efforts to recover the funds have been unfruitful.

- **Project Progress Reporting:** BvAT coordinated the submission and consolidation of partner Annual reports for 2017 and consolidated report was submitted to SDC on 1st July 2018.

- The period also saw the selection of PAN Ethiopia to be responsible for Pillar 2 (Information and Communication) in Ethiopia. Capacity assessment was undertaken by the executing agency team that approved PAN Ethiopia to join the EOA-I project in Ethiopia.
- **CSC Meeting Held in May 2018:** The Secretariat planned and organized the 9th Continental Steering Committee meeting on 22nd and 25th May 2018 held in Kigali, Rwanda where a national Rwanda Organic partners workshop was also held. The CSC members (Dr. Janet Edeme, Dr. David Amudavi, Prof Charles Ssyekewa and others from ROAM) held a meeting with Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture to explore how to collaborate with the ministry in rolling out EOA in Rwanda, given Rwanda's excellent performance to the Malabo commitments and mutual accountability. The ministry is supporting organic mainstreaming in Rwanda. SDC, after the visit, agreed to bring Rwanda on board as the 9th EOA partner in the next phase of 4 years from 2019 onwards. The CSC main aim of the meeting in Rwanda was to receive feedback on project progress under SDC and SSNC support by the 2 Lead coordinating organizations of BvAT and Pelum Kenya. The meeting was also to review, give inputs and approve annual reports for 2017 in preparation for submission to SDC on 1st July.
- **Mapping Out EOA related Initiatives in the African Continent also commenced in the year:** the CSC secretariat developed a tool to capture EOA initiatives outside the current implementation network.
- The EOA-I CSC received a new chairman to its committee. Dr. Simplicie Nouala, the Head of Agriculture and Food Security Division (AFSD) took over from Dr. Janet Edeme who chaired the EOA CSC since 2014. The CSC is now having the third Chair from CSC. Dr. Yemi Akinbamiyo, FARA CEO, was the first AU official to chair the CSC.

The following narrative details the circumstances that prevailed during implementation, the project's key interventions, and information relating to project performance indicators, beneficiaries, stakeholder engagement, and financial reporting in annexes.

SECTION I

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) is an Initiative that arose from efforts to support and implement the African Union Heads of State and Government Decision on Organic Farming passed during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011, EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII). The initiative came into being in 2011 with initial from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and later Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The initiative has a mission to promote ecologically sound strategies and practices among diverse stakeholders in production, processing, marketing and policy making to safeguard the environment, improve livelihoods, alleviate poverty and guarantee food security.

The Initiative's implementation strategy assumes that mainstreaming of EOA in policies and practices requires a multi-stakeholder managed endeavor, best to be promoted through national platforms informed by scientific evidence and local experiential knowledge, supported by capacity development of the various stakeholder groups, broad information & communication efforts and strategic actions linked to regional and continental policy making bodies.

Mainstreaming EOA includes catalyzing changes in various spheres, including public policies and investment plans, technical standards and certification procedures, research agenda and training curricula, advisory and information practices and the organization of markets and value chains. Achievement of the mainstreaming requires consultation and agreement on coordinated and concerted action among the relevant public, private and civil society actors.

The implementation of EOA Initiative in Africa is expected to lead to improved welfare and livelihoods in a healthy environment for Africa's farmers, processors, marketers, consumers and other actors that contribute to food security and poverty alleviation.

The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into national agricultural production systems by 2025 in order to improve agricultural productivity, food security, access to markets and sustainable development in Africa.

Specific outcomes to which the partner activities are supposed to contribute:

- a) EOA related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors are capacitated to translate it into practices and application;
- b) Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services;
- c) A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved;
- d) Multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains.

The initiative embraces holistic production systems that sustain the health of soils, ecosystems and people, and relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions rather than reliance on the use of external inputs with adverse effects on people's total health (human, animal, plant and environmental).

The Initiative under SDC support is anchored on four separate but interrelated pillars, namely:

1. **Pillar 1: Research, Training and Extension (RTE):** This aims to build the body of scientific data supporting EOA by understanding gaps and implementing activities geared towards enhancing uptake of ecological organic agriculture practices along the entire commodity value chains. The key outcome of this pillar is to have scientific, indigenous knowledge, technologies and innovations on EOA application increased.
2. **Pillar 2: Information and Communication (I&C):** This provides avenue through which EOA reaches out to a vast majority of stakeholders on the continent. It focuses on information and communication on EOA approaches, good practices (production, processes, and learning systems) developed, packaged and disseminated to stakeholders to create awareness and deepen knowledge about EOA.
3. **Pillar 3: Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD):** This supports development of sustainable markets and increase trade in traditional and high value agricultural produce both at domestic and export levels within EOA. Through this pillar, EOA product value chain mapping, data collection, opportunity analysis and product/input vetting will be conducted, Business Development Strategies (BDS) for target businesses along value chains will be developed and the market share of EOA quality products at the national, regional and international markets increased.
4. **Pillar 4: Supporting and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management:** Effective implementation of the EOA Initiative requires strong institutions with effective, functional and responsive management systems. The pillar brings together components of the pillars aimed at developing capacities of implementing partners and institutions and is coordinated by Country Lead Organizations (CLOs).

Coordination and Management of the Project

Overall Oversight

The initiative is implemented under the overall oversight of the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by the African Union Commission's, Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA). Dr. Janet Edeme, Head of Division, Rural Economy and Agriculture Department, African Union Commission has been the Chair since 2014 and left the position end of 2018, after taking from Dr. Yemi Akinbamijo, the first Chair and currently FARA Chief Executive. The position of chairing the committee was taken over by Dr. Simplicie Nouala from November 2018. Dr. Nouala is the Head of Division, Rural Economy and Agriculture department (DREA). The mandate of the CSC is to provide EOA in Africa and its membership with guidance, oversight, and decision-making regarding the operations and activities of EOA in Africa.

The CSC is supported by a Secretariat, currently hosted by Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) for an interim period of 5 years.

Overall Project Coordination

BvAT is the Lead Executing Agency responsible for coordinating the implementation of EOA Initiative with SDC's contribution in four countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia) and four in Western Africa (Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Senegal). The EOA Initiative is also supported by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC). PELUM Kenya, a member-based organization based in Thika, Kenya, is responsible for supporting SSNC in coordinating the implementation of the initiative among partners in two countries in Eastern Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia). SSNC sub contracts Ethiopia partner ISD directly.

The EOA Continental Platform

The EOA continental platform in Africa provides the opportunity for networking and sharing among the stakeholders of the EOA-I. It's supported by the Continental Steering Committee (CSC) and AfroNet. The CSC is the apex in the governance structure of EOA in Africa. The CSC members are appointed to serve on behalf of their institutions and not as individuals and agree to represent the general interests of their sector.

The Continental Secretariat with guidance of the Chair successfully held 10 meetings for far with two meetings being held in the year 2018 in May and November in Rwanda and Senegal respectively. **(Annex 1A: Minutes of CSC meeting held in Rwanda; Annex 1B: Minutes of the CSC meeting held in Senegal)**

Regional Platform

The project is coordinated by Regional Platforms steered by Regional Steering Committees (RSC) and their secretariats to facilitate sharing of country experiences and integrating EOA in regional policies and plans. The initiative currently has two active clusters, the Eastern Africa cluster and West Africa cluster. The Southern Africa cluster is in place, but it's not very much actively involved because of lack of financial support. The role of the regional clusters is to coordinate regional actors to implement the EOA agenda, engage with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to integrate EOA in regional and national policy and programs, mobilize resources to support EOA activities and develop rules of procedures and operations in the cluster management.

The steering committee of the Eastern Africa cluster is currently co-chaired by Prof. Charles Ssekya previously of Uganda Organic Certification body (UgoCert). Prof. Charles co-chares due to lack of commitment from East Africa Community (EAC) to chair the Eastern Africa RSC. The Eastern Africa RSC meeting has representation by 16 members from partners in Ethiopia (ISD), Uganda (NOGAMU & Ugo-Cert), Tanzania (TOAM) and Kenya (KOAN), BvAT and PELUM Kenya and IGAD Ethiopia and AfroNet. The West Africa Cluster is chaired by ECOWAS with co-chairing by Prof. Simplicie Vodouhe of Organisation Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB) while The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) is the acting regional secretariat for West Africa. Members of West Africa cluster include but are not limited to organizations from Senegal, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Mali.

National Level

At the National level of implementation, the initiative is coordinated by the Country Lead Organisations (CLOs) and supported by Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs). The CLOs are responsible for coordination of pillar activity implementation by the PIPs and partners, disbursement of funds to the partners as per the proposal and signed work agreements, budgets and contracts, supervision and monitoring of pillar implementation, supporting building of networks and enabling experience sharing across pillars, catalysing the

process of forming and strengthening National Platforms and reporting to National Platforms, Regional Steering Committees and Development partners.

The PIPs oversee implementation of activities within the Pillar strategic areas. Assumptions have been made that all the CLOs and PIPs were appropriately and democratically selected by their National Stakeholders to undertake their mandate. So far, there has been steady progress though with some challenges.

In Tanzania, TOAM is the Country Lead Organization (CLO) taking on this role through Pillar IV (Support and Cementing: Steering, Coordination and Management) and coordinating the following Pillar Organizations:

- **Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)** responsible for Pillar 1 (Research, Training and Extension- RTE)
- **Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM-Tanzania)** in charge of Pillar II (Information and Communication)
- **TOAM in its Marketing department** manages Pillar III (Value Chain and Market Development- VCMD).

In Kenya, national coordination through Pillar 4 is by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) which is also in charge of Pillar 3 (Value Chain and Market Development) and coordinates the following Pillar Organisations:

- **Egerton University**, a public institution is responsible for Pillar 1 is
- Pillar 2 previously under ICIPE is now implemented by **BvAT through its Farmer Communication Programme (FCP)**.

In Uganda, national coordination through pillar 4 has been under the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) which also implemented Pillar 3 and coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisations:

- **Uganda Martyrs University** implements Pillar 1
- **Makerere University** implements Pillar 2

In Ethiopia, the coordination through pillar 4 is undertaken by the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) which also implements Pillar 3. ISD coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisations:

- **Mekelle University** based in Mekelle responsible for Pillar 1
- **PAN Ethiopia** operates Pillar 2

In Benin, the national coordination through pillar 4 is undertaken by Organization Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAP) which also implements Pillar 1 (RTE) and coordinates the following - Pillar Implementing Organisations:

- **Platform for Civil-Society Actors (PASCIB)** handles Pillar 2 of Information and Communication dissemination is implemented by
- **Crasteda** is responsible for Pillar 3 of Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD).

In Senegal, FENAB, a Non- Governmental Organisation Coordinates Pillar 4 and also coordinated the following Pillar Implementing Organisations:

- **ENDA PRONAT** responsible for Pillar 1 (RTE).
- **ASPAB (Senegalese Association for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture)** in charge of Pillar 2.
- **AGRECOL Association for Agriculture & Ecology** implements Pillar 3 (VCMD).

In Nigeria, the national coordination is under the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) doubling as implementers for Pillar 3 (VCMD). NOAN coordinated the following Organisations in the reporting year;

- University of Ibadan and **Kwara State University** in Malete for Pillar1
- **Healthy Foods for Consumers Initiative**, Ibadan and Federation of Agricultural Commodity Association of Nigeria in Abuja responsible for Pillar 2.
- **NOAN and Organic Fertilizer Producer and Suppliers Association of Nigeria** based in Abuja in charge of Pillar 3.

In Mali, the national coordination through pillar 4 is under Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP) and coordinates the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- **Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER)** implements Pillar 1.
- **Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de recherche** implements Pillar 2.
- **REMATRAC-BIO** is responsible for Pillar 3.

AfrONet

AfrONet is also funded under the SDC funding arrangement. It is a membership Network that draws members from national, regional and continental organic agriculture organizations, associations, networks and companies in Africa. It undertakes the following functions deemed appropriate in meeting its objectives as cited in the Network's constitution:

- ✓ Unite and network organic agriculture actors and stakeholders across the continent.
- ✓ Undertake lobbying and advocacy at high levels.
- ✓ Support capacity building for key players in organic agriculture across the continent.
- ✓ Mobilize resources for its endeavors in promoting organic agriculture in the continent.
- ✓ Provide management and administrative consultancy to like-minded programs and partners.
- ✓ Undertake any other functions as deemed necessary to address the course and objectives of EOA.

These functions are mostly conducted, as much as possible, by pooling and making use of members' own human, financial and technical resources. AfroNet continues to receive support from SDC to establish its structures of operations.

1.2 CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

This section identifies key project implementation challenges that were encountered. We have deliberately placed it before the detailed narrative to give the reader a comprehensive picture of the issues that the project faced during 2018.

Timeframe issues/delays in the planned project activities: Partners were expected to submit annual reports for 2018 both operational and financial reports by 31st January 2019. The release of funds for the year were tied to the report submission and approval requirement. However, delays of approximately 1-2 months were experienced across all partner leading to delays in reviewing reports especially financial support documents. Delays in reporting were not exceptional in 2018 and this resulted in delays with funds release as well as implementation of activities which approximately started as late as April 2018.

To mitigate this challenge, the project undertook partners capacity assessment that commenced in 2017 and continued in 2018 to bring out key capacity challenges that were leading to delays in partners technical reporting, delays in financial reporting and documentation as well as weak financial controls. The exercise brought out key weak capacity areas with key recommendations for addressing the gaps. Partners developed Capacity building plans in 2018 following this exercise with majority commencing addressing low hanging fruits that did not necessitate financial resources.

Limited funding at National level: The EOA-I implementing partners were faced with limited resource mobilizations opportunities due to lack of fundraising staff as well as incompetent staff in the fundraising sector. This challenge, which has been consistent since project inception in 2014 was mitigated by undertaking capacity assessment in 2017 to bring out key capacity areas that will draw a clear road map of organizational development of EOA-I partners. The capacity building road map was started in 2018. Partners at the regional level were also involved in a series of meetings and workshops to develop regional fundraising strategies and meeting possible donors.

Partners inability to utilize funds at their disposal at the required burn rate of 75%. Currently the burn rate has been rated at 68%. The implementing partners were faced with limited capacities to implement and efficiently utilize funds in their disposal within the given time frame. Key among reasons that led to a low burn rate was lack of staff dedicated to the project. Most of the implementing organizations are donor driven and therefore could not allocate dedicated staff to the EOA-I SDC funded project. This gap also exposed the project to less competent and temporary staff implementing the project. To mitigate this challenge, the executing agency continued to undertake frequent monitoring field visits to support weak staff as well as ensure implementing staff continue to be committed to the project.

Lack of funds: The EOA-I has 2 key donors namely SDC and SSNC. According to the Strategic Plan developed in 2015, the initiative has a funding gap of 60%. This gap continued to bring operationalization of the EOA-I structures especially support to key activities like NSC, RSC & CSC meetings, support to secretariats, monitoring and evaluation support across the various structures especially at Country Level, and partners capacity building initiatives like trainings as well as decentralized Partner project Audits. To mitigate this challenge, some measures were taken like the continental and regional secretariats scaled up resource mobilization to bring in more funds to support various project activities. Pelum Kenya the host to Eastern Africa secretariat received funding support from SSNC for operationalizing their secretariat activities, BvAT

also responded to the call for proposals from GIZ/BMZ on the new project of supporting the development of organic regional hubs across the Africa Continent. BvAT expressed its interest to take lead in a consortium of partners to implement the eastern Africa Knowledge hub at a funding of USD 2,000,000.

Diminishing key Donor support: Diminishing donor support was experienced in Uganda in 2018. Makerere University in charge of Information and Communication pillar (P2) was suspended due to financial and project malpractices in March 2018. NOGAMU the Country Lead Organization (CLO) of Uganda EOA stakeholders suffered a huge blow when all its key donors suspended their support to the organization. The key donors included SSNC, Sida, Trade Mark East Africa and SDC. The withdrawal of support was based on financial malpractices that led to loss of donor funds. BvAT is currently working with Nogamu to redeem its tainted image. Key among restructured areas so far include a newly elected board of governance and a new CEO.

Weak financial management systems: Some partners currently do not undertake Organizational annual audits due to lack of organizational funds to support the execution of this key annual organizational tasks. This complicates the ability to ascertain the partners financial management credibility. Other financial management issues are failure of some implementing partners to operationalize the financial management procedures which have brought out weak areas like poor financial expenditure documentation, double accounting, wrong budgetary allocations, utilization of more than 10% of budgetary allocations, implementation of unplanned activities and adulteration of documents. This challenge was observed in 2018 by our key partners in Uganda and Senegal. Key partners implicated have been Makerere University in charge of Information and Communication Pillar (P2) and Nogamu the Country Lead Organization (CLO) in Uganda as well as ASPAB in charge of Information and Communication Pillar (P2) and FENAB the Country Lead Organization in Senegal.

Institutional periodic closures: Closure of partner universities has greatly affected project implementation in 2018 under pillar 1 especially in Kenya, Mali and Uganda.

Weak EOA Oversight Structures: The roles of National Steering Committees (NSC) have not been taken seriously. The NSC role of oversight and decision making by implementing partners has not been utilized. A case of Uganda where NSC did not take the expected lead on handling the termination of contract for Nogamu and Makerere University after financial malpractices were noticed by BvAT. The Uganda NSC did not step in to replace Makerere University and Nogamu. NSC lapse was also experienced in Ethiopia in facilitating the replacement of PANOS Ethiopia with a new organization. This was after PANOS collapsed due to lack of donor funding therefore necessitating its closure. The NCS took an entire year (2017) and part of 2018 to indemnify an organization fit enough to replace PANOS in Information and Communication Pillar implementation. To mitigate against this challenge, BvAT has commissioned experts to review the EOA oversight structures (NSC, RSC and CSC) in order to ensure that the mandate of the structures is strengthened.

Support from of Regional Bodies (RECs) to EOA-I: by design and based on the organic decision made by AUC, the regional blocks should come in to support mainstreaming of EOA-I at regional level. However, this support by RECs (EAC & ECOWAS) has not fully been realized. The engagements are still at their nascent stages since inception of the project in 2014. This basically has been due to lack of clear directions on

how to bring them on board. As a mitigation measure EOA-I awareness across the RECs should be reinforced.

SECTION II

2 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS EXPECTED RESULTS

2.1 BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST(BvAT) AS LEAD EXECUTING AGENCY

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4: Fully functional multi stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains.

Output 4.3. Capacity of Executing Agency (Biovision Africa Trust) to undertake its mandate in managing the implementation of EOAI strengthened

Biovision Africa Trust in its capacity as an executing agency to the SDC funded project coordinated activities during the implementation period with minimal setbacks. The agency had engagements with Partners at national level, with regional partners as well as with international partners. In its capacity it also implemented various activities under its docket. Below section outlines some of the key activities the agency undertook in that capacity.

AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Biovision Africa Trust is in charge of coordinating the implementation of the project by its partners in the 8 countries. Majority of the countries, 7 out of 8 performed well with minimal set back while others had key issues that came out strongly.

Programme Implementation

Implementation of programme activities by CLOs and PIPs has been going on reasonably well in 2018 in 7 countries with partners aligning their activities with the set objectives and budgets. Ethiopia partners managed to come back on track after being suspended in 2016-2017.

Uganda partners missed out on project implementation during the implementation period in 2018. This was due to institutional challenges especially the leadership and governance arm whose weak linkages led to misappropriation of Sida and Trade Mark East Africa donor funds. This necessitated the suspension of NOGAMU as a CLO for Uganda under SDC support after it was ascertained that the NOGAMU challenges led to weak documentation of financial expenditures for funds disbursed in 2017. Due to inability of NOGAMU to account BvAT project funds for 2017, they were requested to commit to refunding back the funds. NOGAMU committed to pay back the funds amounting to USD 17,571 by end of April 2019 based on a commitment letter dated 20th December 2018 (**Annex1: NOGAMU commitment letter to BvAT**).

Project implementation in Ethiopia was reinstated in 2018 when Ethiopia NSC commenced the selection process for Pillar 2 (I&C) in April 2018 by advertising in public boards and local newspapers where they received 7 applicants (5 CSOs and 2 private organizations).

On 9th April 2018, the NSC interviewed the various applicants based on a developed criteria and selected Pesticide Action Nexus (PAN Ethiopia) as the most appropriate organization to take charge of Pillar 2.

PAN Ethiopia is an Ethiopian residency charity established in July 2012 to advance advocacy work on environment and development to enhance a safe and sustainable environment free from hazardous and poisonous chemicals. Has been promoting organic cotton production since 2012. PAN Ethiopia commenced its responsibility in July 2018 after satisfying documentation requirements (submission of final contract with ISD and submission of Work Plans and Budgets for 2018 (**Annex 2: MOU between PAN and ISD; Annex 3: PAN Ethiopia Work Plans and Budgets for 2018**)).

PAN Ethiopia comes in to support advocacy and awareness creating around the use of synthetic pesticides and therefore will bring in a strong voice in Ethiopia and support key EOA elements especially in areas of encouraging the use of biopesticides.

In the rest of partner implementing countries, activities went on normally and annual reports were submitted by all partners (**Annex 4: Tanzania Annual Report, Annex 5: Kenya Annual report, Annex 6: Mali Annual Report, Annex 7: Nigeria Annual report, Annex 8: Benin Annual report, Annex 9: Senegal Annual report, Annex 10: Ethiopia Annual report**).

Planning, fund management and reporting

All partners apart from Uganda received disbursement of 1st instalment of funds for activity implementation amounting to 60 % of overall funds by April 2018.

By end of 2017, 5 Country Lead Organisations (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Mali, and Tanzania) qualified and received 2nd instalment amounting to 40% of the overall fund thus totalling to 100% funds released for 2017 having satisfactorily submitted their bi annual financial and technical reports.

The rest of the 2 partners (Benin and Senegal) had either not reached the burn rate of 75% or had not submitted financial supporting documents satisfactorily. Release of 100% funds to the 5 CLOs streamlined activities towards achievement of EOA set outcomes.

Uganda's 2018 funds were put on hold pending a comprehensive financial reporting by NOGAMU.

Funding for ASPAB (Pillar 2) Senegal were also put on hold due to pending comprehensive financial reporting.

AT REGIONAL LEVEL

Biovision Africa Trust is in charge of coordinating implementation of the project by the 2 regional clusters and its secretariats through funding support from SDC. The project currently supports the eastern Africa secretariat hosted by Pelum Kenya as well as the west Africa secretariat hosted by NOAN.

The 2 clusters continued to undertake tremendous work coordinating EOA-I activities at the regional level.

Eastern Africa Regional Secretariats Pelum Kenya and NOAN received 100% of its 2018 funds.

AT CONTINENTAL LEVEL

Biovision Africa Trust at this level with support from SDC has been executing activities through the CSC Secretariat hosted in their Nairobi office. The activities of the CSC members and those of the Secretariat continued uninterrupted as it will be explained in detail in the consecutive chapters below.

Afronet the umbrella of National Organic Movement in the Africa continent as well had a good year of implementation and received 100% of their funding during this reporting period.

AT PROGRAMME LEVEL

BvAT executed the following key activities during the reporting period through its executing funding support from SDC:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation
2. Partners Capacity Assessment exercise
3. Regional Validation Partner Workshops
4. Development of the SDC Proposal for Phase 2
5. International networking and Collaborations

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MONITORING

All 8 main country partners were visited and assessed at least once during the implementation year. In this report we will highlight key experiences we had from our monitoring visits in Senegal (**Annex 11: Senegal Monitoring visit report**), Uganda (**Annex 12: Uganda monitoring visit report**) and Ethiopia (**Annex 13: Ethiopia Monitoring report**). The 3 partners had outstanding challenges that this report needs to bring out clearly. The rest of the partners in Kenya, Tanzania, Benin, Mali and Nigeria (**Annex 14: Nigeria Monitoring visit report**) had a smooth year of implementation with minimal disturbances.

SENEGAL

A. Key Organizational Findings for FENAB the CLO for Senegal

- a) *FENAB is yet to establish the national EOA platform, one of the key platforms in the coordination of EOA-I activities at the national level.*

The platform was supposed to be established in 2014 at the commencement of the project, latest 2015 but due to lack of good coordination this key activity had not been attained by end of the year 2018.

Lack of a national body with well-coordinated National Steering Committee (NSC) members that have correct composition as envisaged by the initiative has undermined national coordination especially government engagements, coordinating the Pillar Implementing Organizations as well as spearheading advocacy efforts of mainstreaming EOA-I into national plans and programmes. This gap is closely associated with insufficient staff to coordinate FENAB EOA activities given that the Coordinator is overwhelmed with overall organizational duties and other projects besides the EOA-I project.

Another reason given by Fenab for not having an operational National Platform was based on government's decision to form an Agroecological National Platform under the Ministry of Agriculture. According to Fenab, they were appointed as key facilitators to the process and therefore saw no need to have similar national platforms serving the same stakeholders. Fenab supported the process through the development of 3 documents (strategy of establishment done March 2017, Code of conduct of the platform (how members will work together) and proposal for creation of the platform. However, the platform has not yet been established due to government bureaucracies. The formation of the Agroecology/EOA platform emanated from the agroecology symposium held in Senegal from 5-6 November 2015 by FAO and the National Government following the **International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition** on 18th and 19th September 2014 in Rome, Italy. Due to the delays in setting up of the agroecology platform, the EOA stakeholders do not have a formal national platform as anticipated.

b) ***Lack of clear delineation between FENAB's Governance arm and Management arm***

During the implementation period, it was consistently observed that there was confusion between the roles of FENAB Executive Committee (board) and those of Fenab management (staff). The Executive Committee of FENAB implemented project activities and other related activities as well as handling overall financial management with no room for the coordinator to approve funds. This set up continued to bring challenges of conflicts of interest especially because this arrangement left the Fenab coordinator with little control of organizations operations and decision making.

In addition, the executive committee, due to clash of its roles with those of the management staff, took lead in the implementation of the EOA-I project thereby taking up the roles of the Pillar Implementing Organizations and that of the National Steering Committee and National Platform. This narrowed down the national outlook and engagement of a wider network of stakeholders to spearhead EOA-I at the national level. The situation was worsened by the fact that the Executive Committee is localized in one region in Senegal therefore lacking a national outlook. This set up limited the national image required for mainstreaming of EOA initiative in Senegal.

Our analysis shows that the Board/Executive Committee participates in activity implementation at grassroots level as a way of rewarding themselves for those positions.

B. Key Findings on Financial Management for FENAB the CLO for Senegal

Strengths

- i. FENAB has a general account signed by the treasurer, chair and secretary of the board.
- ii. EOA has a project account with a dedicated Finance manager and a cashier who are not permanently employed due to lack of funds dedicated to staff salaries under the EOA project.
- iii. Staff have Job descriptions and contracts well documented.

- iv. **Procurement process is transparent and organized:** the finance manager/coordinator are in charge of identifying and allocating budgets.
- v. FENAB has a financial software in place called Sage Saari 100. The finance department started working with this software in July 2018. However, the finance manager is not well versed with the software, but plans were put in place for the officer to be trained.
- vi. **Funds Management:** When Funds balance is under 50,000 cfa, it's deposited in the petty cash box and if beyond 50,000 cfa, the money is deposited in the bank. The only challenge is that funds in the petty cash box are used to run the organization which is a wrong financial management practice. Cumulatively through such a practice, specific project funds end up not being utilized adequately and transparently for planned activities.
- vii. **Requisition process is transparent:** The cheque is issued in the name of the cashier or El haji the Finance manager if cashier is not available. The cash is then given to the officer supposed to undertake activities. Once activity has been finalized the officer brings back the support documents (invoices and receipts). As indicated the funds balance is either deposited to the Petty cash box if less than 50,000xcfa and if beyond 50,000xcfa re deposited in the bank.

Weaknesses

- I. The Coordinator is not involved in requisition and approvals of funds thus limiting his controls in funds movements from the organization.
- II. Concerns on bringing on board the coordinator as signatory were raised based on the fact that the board and signatories have been appointed by the General Assembly, a sign of not wanting to let go as well as not having basic understanding of the board's roles.
- III. FENAB has been using funds under EOA petty cash to run office administration. This issue has been raised severally as a red flag in terms of management of funds for projects, but gaps are still there.
- IV. FENAB has financial control system but this doesn't seem to be followed strictly and therefore several financial expenditures were disallowed.

Recommendations for FENAB

- i. BvAT took this issue of lack of a national EOA platform seriously and recommended FENAB to bring all organic stakeholders together to form an EOA national platform with key representations from CSOs, certification bodies, related line ministries, research institutions, farmer organizations, policy and training institutions, etc. It was recommended that the platform be launched and election of a new NSC done. The platform should be meeting at least 2 times a year.
- ii. Separation of board roles and those of the management should be done: The governance structure (board) of FENAB should not be involved in project implementation. The role of governance should be oversight and decision making.
- iii. There is need to train the board of FENAB on their roles as the governing body of the organization to avoid confusions.
- iv. FENAB needs to set up a strong management team independent of governance members.

- v. BvAT proposed that FENAB to have 3 signatories in which the coordinator of the organization (Ibrahima SECK) should be a signatory of EOA accounts with board members availing 2 signatories to review and process the funds.
- vi. The FENAB Coordinator of EOA should raise requisition of funds for activity implementation as well as take lead in implementation.
- vii. It was proposed that EOA activities should not be confused with FENAB's overall organizational activities and that Pillar Implementing Organizations and National Steering Committee (NSC) members should get involved in activity implementation at National level as structured under the EOA-I project.
- viii. FENAB should refund rejected/unaccounted funds for expenses in the year 2018.

C. Key highlights of ASPAB in charge of Pillar 2

Financial Management and Observations by BvAT team

Strengths

- i. Finance manager has been employed since 2018
- ii. EOA - SDC stamp in place

Weaknesses

- i. Use of excel sheet for financial management. No financial software in place.
- ii. ASPAB is not yet tagging assets/equipment and there is no register in spite of several recommendations. Return expense form is not in place in spite of recommendation from BvAT.
- iii. Bank reconciliation is now in place, however no evidence of verification and approval of the bank reconciliation process.
- iv. Lack of clear funds requisition process. This was observed especially were approvals of funds withdrawals were done after funds had already been disbursed
- v. Poor financial expenditures accounting and documentation of expenditures. Case of missing finance documents was observed like missing cheques. Cases of project funds being used to run office affairs were noted.
- vi. Poor contracting and procurement processes. Cases of contractual terms not being adhered to were noted like cases of consultants being paid amounts not captured in the documented contracts.

Recommendations for ASPAB

- i. There is need for an overall overhaul of financial management. Financial management and control in spite of having a finance and operations manuals are flawed.
- ii. Due to this weakness, we verified unclear financial expenditures under the project that we requested ASPAB management to refund to the EOA accounts.
- iii. Disallowed funds were refunded in November 2018 as recommend by BvAT (**Annex 15A: Refunded funds for activity 2.1.2 and 2.2.2 under ASPAB; Annex 15B: Support documents for refunds for activity 2.1.4.**)

D. KEY FINDINGS FOR PILLAR 1 AND PILLAR 3

AGRECOLE (P3) AND ENDAPRONAT (P1)

- ✓ They have sound financial management systems.
- ✓ The 2 organizations strictly have operationalized their financial procedures to the latter
- ✓ They have up to date financial software's in place.
- ✓ Qualified finance managers are in place.
- ✓ Up to date activity implementation with clear alignment of budget lines to planned activities is evident.
- ✓ In the event that FENAB should need support to coordinate and manage EOA activities and funds, or any other project funds, Enda Pronat comes highly recommended in that capacity.

ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, meeting was held between BvAT and PAN Ethiopia team to understand PAN's operations and its organizational structure. PAN's advocacy strategy to discourage use of chemicals by farmers, especially Organic cotton farmers, is a good avenue to support EOA in Ethiopia.

PAN Ethiopia passed the due diligence test due to the following reasons and were given a green light to take lead in the implementation of the project under information and communication pillar (P2)

Governance and Management

- ✓ PAN has a strong governance arm with full active board members who are guided by a membership charter as well as by the regulations of Ethiopian authorities.
- ✓ PAN has a total of 11 staff. 7 staff based in the main office in Addis Ababa, 2 staff based in Zuwey, 2 staff in Harlemer. The main office has the Director, Finance and Administration Manager, Programme Coordinator, Communications Officer, Project Coordinator, Finance Accountant and a Cashier (who works only on weekends).
- ✓ PAN has 5 Board members; the board chairman background is demography and works in Ethiopia Public Association as a Project Coordinator; the vice chairman is from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Natural Resources as the Head of plant protection. His background is in agriculture. Other members are environmental experts. The board members are governed by a board manual with a constitution outlining responsibilities, organizational structure etc.
- ✓ PAN ETH is an association of members that constitute the general assembly. The members are 35. The members influence the organization to push the members agendas at the national level.

Operational Tools

PAN Ethiopia has the following operational manuals:

- ✓ Administration and Financial manual is in draft form.
- ✓ Memorandum of Association
- ✓ Administration manual (HR and Procurement are part of it). They wait endorsement from General Assembly in February 2019.

- ✓ Internal memorandum/guideline endorsed by staff that gives guidelines to transport and per diem

Financial Management

- ✓ Approval of funds is done by 3 signatories who either 2 can approve based on the memorandum of governance. The 3 signatories are staff of PAN and no board member controls funds flow out of the organization. The 3 signatories are finance and programme officers who can either can sign but all transitions have to be signed by the director. With no board member controlling certain volumes of funds from the organization we see a big fraud risk.
- ✓ The board members meet every quarter to review and approve financial reports
- ✓ The organization has installed a financial software called peach 3
- ✓ PAN has only one bank general account and therefore we recommended opening of an EOA account by January 2019.
- ✓ Bank reconciliations are done on a monthly basis for general overall bank transactions
- ✓ Procurement is done for goods/services worth more than above 1,500 Birr where 3 minimum quotations are selected.
- ✓ For services and goods beyond 150,000 Birr, a call is done in newspapers
- ✓ An ad-hoc procurement committee is in place with key administration and finance officers being part of the committee.
- ✓ There is no payroll system in place because the financial software (peach) is not friendly to localize local tax rates and pension. The organization is currently using excel for payroll.
- ✓ A Payroll system was recommended.
- ✓ Cash balances are deposited in the bank.
- ✓ An asset register and tagging is in place.
- ✓ Fixed assets, stock management and procurement management are part of the finance manual.
- ✓ No depreciation guidelines have been provided by the government.

The above key elements of PAN Ethiopia met the selection requirements set by BvAT of an implementing partner.

Other key issues that came out of the Ethiopia visit

ISD informed BvAT team during the visit of the tedious process they have gone through to recover funds totaling to 384,000 Birr that was lost under the closure of PANOS. From information about the various court cases they attended it was clear that the legal process might take a longer time whose end is not certain. Avenues of trying to engage the former director of PANOS Mr. Ayele Kebede were closed after it was clear he was not cooperating.

BvAT team made it clear to ISD of the need to meet its commitment of refunding the lost funds to BvAT. However, the requirement by government regulations on project funds not to be refunded to donors was discussed as a challenge where this is not allowed. The teams agreed that ISD would follow up on available avenues.

Work under Pillar 3 (Value chain and market development) as well as Pillar 1 (Research, training and extension) were being implemented successfully by the time of our visit in October 2018.

UGANDA

Biovision Africa Trust visited Uganda partners 3 times during the implementation period of 2018. This was during the 1st quarter as well as the last quarter (**Annex 16: Uganda Monitoring visit report for 1st Quarter; Annex 17: Uganda Monitoring report for 2nd quarter; Annex 18: Uganda Monitoring report for last quarter**)

During the 1st quarter visit, key findings of the team necessitated the immediate suspension of Makerere University in charge of Pillar 2. Makerere University was suspended through Nogamu its contracting organization (**Annex 19: Makerere Suspension Letter**). **Makerere as well refunded back funds under their control after the suspension. (Annex 20: Copy of bank statement of refunded funds by Makerere University)**

Makerere University was suspended from further implementation of Pillar 2 due to the following reasons:

- i. Lack of an updated contract between NOGAMU and Makerere University.
- ii. Lack of clear guidelines of engagement of Makerere and its co-pillar implementers (private organizations)
- iii. Lack of clear guidelines on funds management under the Pillar.
- iv. The Pillar Implementation leader Prof. Fred Kabi at the time of the visit had funds for the project transferred to his personal account under unclear guidelines. With such a setting it was not possible to monitor funds management under a privately-owned account.
- v. Efforts and recommendations given to him by BvAT team to open a separate project account that he would open for financial verifications were not addressed.
- vi. The recommendations of updating the contractual terms and obligations between Makerere University and NOGAMU as well as with other private firms was not addressed.
- vii. The BvAT team through NOGAMU requested for the refund of unspent funds under Makerere University immediately after suspension and order that was obeyed
- viii. The refunded funds are currently being held by BvAT.

In the second and last quarter of a visit to Uganda, BvAT focused on meeting NOGAMU and its interim board in order to thrush out various financial pending issues which were not clear through email discussions.

Objectives of the meeting were to:

- Get updates on progress of getting NOGAMU Secretariat back to its feet
- Too agree on way forward in recovery of EOA-I funds not accounted for by NOGAMU and its Pillar Implementing partners (Uganda Marty's University)

The meetings were attended by

1. Mr. Samuel Nyanzi - NOGAMU Interim Chair
2. Timothy Nyakase- NOGAMU board Member
3. Jane Nalunga- NOGAMU Secretariat coordinator

Following very fruitful meetings with the team, it was clear that NOGAMU was doing tremendous work of recovery and clearing its name with Sida whose funds were lost under NOGAMU's management. NOGAMU employed 1 new staff in administration to support Jane Nalunga the interim CEO.

The meeting agreed that Nogamu has an obligation of refunding back SDC project funds for 2017 after it failed to account for them satisfactorily. A commitment letter was signed and legalized on 31st December 2018. **(Annex 21: Nogamu funds repayment commitment letter)**

The team of BvAT and NOGAMU as well as visits to Uganda Martyrs University agreed on the following way forward:

- ✓ UMU to close its financial status for 2018 with complete documentation before close of the year.
- ✓ Due to insufficient reporting of financial expenditures observed, funds for 2018 under Pillar 4 for Coordination held by NOGAMU will be refunded in full.
- ✓ With this agreement, a commitment letter should be submitted to BvAT by 20th December 2019.
- ✓ Plans will be put in place to ensure funds are recovered within 1st quarter of 2019 before commencement of Phase II of the project.

EVALUATION

END TERM EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE EOA PROJECT UNDER SDC (2013-2018)

The main aim of the evaluation was to assess the achievements and impacts of the initiative resulting from interventions by the partners (CLOs and PIPs) and institutional structures (Continental Steering Committee, AfrONet, Regional Steering Committees, National Steering Committees, and Executing Agencies) in order to strengthen accountability to stakeholders.

The evaluation focused on project activities undertaken since 2014 in Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda (current EOA Initiative participating countries) as well as the institutional structures established to drive the agenda of mainstreaming EOA at country, regional and continental levels in policies, plans, strategies, and programmes.

Agile Consultants were selected to undertake the external evaluation task which they completed successfully and satisfactorily and presented the 1st results to the CSC meeting in Rwanda Kigali in May 2018.

They also presented results to planning and validation stakeholders' workshops in Eastern and Western Africa in July & August 2018 where further inputs/comments from the meetings were incorporated in the final report.

The Final report was submitted to BvAT in November 2018 and had the following key findings and recommendations:

- I. Relevance, Effectiveness & Efficiency of Mainstreaming EOA into national policies, plans, programs and strategies.***
 - **Build capacity of the CLOs to manage multi-stakeholder processes.**

It is evident that the process of mainstreaming EOA is a multi-stakeholder process (MSPs). MSPs range from simple processes, such as one-off consultations, to more complex ones such as multi-stakeholder networks and partnerships and thus require competent technical people with a knowhow of MSP facilitation to ensure

the process remain relevant, has ownership amongst the members and ultimately its able to sustain partnerships and alliances. Therefore, the capacity of CLOs should be strengthened for them to handle high-level multi-stakeholder engagements at national level.

- **Rally in Champions beyond government representations.**

Government (ministry of Agriculture representation) at the NSC is strategic, but not enough. There is need to include champions “*opinion shapers*” in the NSCs. This means people with international and national stature and recognized authorities in matters ecological organic agriculture. This will build more credibility on the advocacy agenda and move the EOA from a development agenda corner more and embraced more as a key agenda at the national level.

- **Make AfrONET more vibrant**

EOA Initiative with current level of financial support cannot be in all countries. Including the non-EOA countries, AfrONET should drive the agenda through initiating partnerships, resource mobilization and involving continental champions (persons of influence) at pitch of EOA advocacy agenda, and too at the helm of the organization. The influence of persons such as the late Koffi Annan on AGRA’s growth and impact is a good demonstration what such champions can achieve.

II. EOA Effectiveness & Efficiency of EOA Institutional Set Up & Institutional Support Structures

- **Motivating Funding Support Arrangements**

While the element of all collective responsibility is being emphasized by the CLOs compiling reports for the entire country before the next tranche is released, it doesn’t seem to have often been effective as it often leads to delays. The time lag in releasing funds, had a knock-on effect to delays in delivery and quality of some of the programme outputs as the implementing partners rush to beat deadlines. For example, the Jan 2016 funds disbursements were delayed by an average of 4 months and 3 days and had a knock effect of subsequent delay in submission of the report of approximately 1 month and 9 days.

Therefore, CLOs should take up more responsibility to ensure quality and timeliness of reports to reduce the back and forth between the CLO’s and the Secretariats. This can be affected by allowing the CLOs to submit the reports that are ready on time, but also only get an equivalent proportion of the administration fees, with the balance coming after the remaining reports come through.

The current funds requisition system is that countries put in request for resources annually, based on a pre-structured EOA implementation plan. The operating environment can change significantly over 3 to 5 years; thus, the current approach gives little room for implementing partners to bring in innovativeness and drive agility of the initiative. As such, ET recommends that EOA should only provide general direction on the key areas to focus and clear targets based on the continental EOA strategy- the EOA Strategic Plan; and then allow the countries to put in a proposal / plan addressing the same.

This approach would take care of specific country contexts and prioritize initiatives accordingly. In addition to the proposed process, EOA should consider introducing a combination of basic grant and performance-based bonus to make the entire process competitive, ambition for countries to go for targets and as such promote innovation.

- **Develop and Employ a Robust Monitoring & Evaluation Framework**

The starting point is to agree on a broad set of indicators from which CLOs and PIPs will develop their country specific indicators. A key survey to be conducted as part of the new phase design is a baseline survey. A baseline study/ survey as an analysis describing the situation in a project area – including data on individual primary stakeholders – prior to a development intervention. Progress (results and accomplishments) can be assessed and comparisons made against it. It also serves as an important reference for the MTR and final evaluation.

The ET has noted previously that this initiative did not have a robust M&E framework, and this may have affected the reliability or validity of some of the numbers that have been reported from the PIPs upstream. Figure 11 presents the headlines of what would go to an M&E Framework.

A final report of the evaluation was finalized and shared with partners (**Annex 22: External evaluation report**)

PARTNERS ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESMENT

This exercise commenced mid of 2017 and rolled over to mid 2018.

The exercise was done with the purpose of assessing each partner’s technical, human resources and organizational capacity, identify gaps in its ability to carry out its responsibility as a country lead organization (CLO) or pillar implementation partner (PIP), and deriving recommendations for action plans. The assessment is expected to draw map in the development of strong EOA partners at National levels.

The main focus of the assessment is on the partner’s capacity to plan, implement, monitor programmes and respond to expectations of the EOA initiative.

The reports comprising of overall OCA report and financial control assessment reports were finalized and shared with Eastern Africa & Western Africa partners in June – July 2018 meeting on 4th Dec 2017 for their review, giving recommendations for revisions and approval.

Key Highlights of the reports (Key Findings and Recommendations)

The capacity assessment served to identify partners weak capacity areas and seek ways of enhancement through capacity building support

✓ **Key Findings**

Programmes

- ✓ 11% of the partners were rated ‘weak’ or ‘very weak’ in programme implementation, plus 25%, despite being capable, did not fit with the pillar activities they were working on. With more than a 1/3 of partners, facing issues on programme delivery, this reflected concerns about the operational efficiency of the partners.

Financial management and control

- ✓ 26% of the partners were ranked ‘significant’ or ‘high risk’ on the financial management and control dimension.

Key highlights Recommendations:

Programs revealed 2 different challenges;

a) Weakness on the programme side

b) Lack of fit between partners and the pillar assigned.

- ✓ Need for replacement of partners unable to address the required changes with other more capable and engaged players.
- ✓ Overhaul of partners is not appropriate. However, a certain level of partner turnover is necessary is to form new partners with the knowledge, skills and mindset, who [where required] can breathe new life into the initiative.

Financial Management and Control:

- ✓ Partners who are ranked significant and high risk should be examined as soon as possible.
- ✓ Again, with urgent action from the proposed accountant coach, if they can't improve significantly in a period of **3 months** then, they should be dropped from the programs.
- ✓ This would be standard operating procedure in donor funded programs.

The report was finalised and submitted to BvAT on behalf of CSC in 2018 (**Annex 23: Organisational Capacity Assessment Report**)

REGIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOPS

Based on results from the 2 key exercises (Partners Capacity Assessment and External Evaluation of the project), it was prudent for BvAT to bring together all key EOA stakeholders for deliberations on how to address areas of weaknesses and challenges that have been identified in the first phase of project's implementation by developing a road map (capacity building plan) and use gaps identified to feed into the development of a grand proposal for the next EOA phase under SD support.

To ensure that this exercise is done in a participatory manner, BvAT held 2 key stakeholders' workshops in Eastern Africa and West Africa that brought together key partners from the 8 countries under EOA SDC support. The 2 workshops in the 2 regions covered partners from Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda, from Mali, Senegal, Benin and Nigeria.

The workshops targeted implementing partners (Country Lead Organizations and Pillar Implementing Partners) as well as key stakeholders drawn from National Platforms and Regional Platforms and will target approximately 50 stakeholders from each region bringing to a total of 100 stakeholders.

Objectives of the Workshop were as follows:

1. Deliberate on findings and recommendations from the 2 main exercises (OCA and External evaluation)
2. Develop a road map (Capacity building plans) in addressing Capacity gaps for partners drawn from the OCA exercise
3. Develop grand proposal for the next EOA project phase (3 years) under SDC support

The Eastern Africa Workshop was held from 30th July to 3rd August 2018 in Machakos County at Gelian Hotel and was attended by 30 participants while the West Africa workshop was held from 13th to 17th August 2018 in Cotonou Benin and also was attended by 30 participants

We engaged a consultant Mr. Phareesh Ratego an M&E and Fundraising expert who facilitated the workshops and planning towards development of Partners Capacity Building Plans, a Robust M&E Framework and EOA SDC Proposal in the next phase.

The KEY OUTPUTS of the workshop were as follows:

- Developed partners country Capacity Building road map report (**Annex 24: Proposed Capacity building road map for partners**)
- Developed Draft Pro Doc for next Phase
- Proposed M&E plan (**Annex 25: Proposed M&E Plan**)
- Proposed Grants Management Plan (**Annex 26: Proposed Grants Management plan**)

Reports were also produced for the Workshops (**Annex 27: Eastern Africa validation report; Annex 28: West Africa Validation report**)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SDC PROPOSAL FOR PHASE 2

BvAT commenced the development of the EOA-SDC proposal through the validation workshops of its stakeholders as mentioned above. The process of proposal development started in July 2018 and by the time we closed the year the 2nd draft with revisions had been shared with SDC. The key elements of the draft proposal that brought in key recommendations from the Organisational capacity assessment findings as well as from the external evaluation findings was also reviewed by CSC members during their CSC meeting in November held in Senegal and their reviews captured.

Changes Proposed for Phase II

- ✓ Changes proposed in this proposal build on Phase I implementation and stem largely from the partners' Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) and external evaluation conducted in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Proposed Strategies of Implementation

- 1. Market system development: Pillar 3:** Approaches which embrace business development support infrastructure, value chain analysis and making markets work for the poor (M4P) are key to achieving greater market integration and benefits to value chain actors. In this, special attention shall be given to capacitating national EOA systems to have affordable certification systems to increase visibility and consumption of organic products.
- 2. Grant Management System:**

Options to be considered are:

- 1) Fully competitive but restricted to EOA implementing organizations and partners

- 2) Partial competitive with a per cent (for example 70%) allocated across current partners and some per cent (30%) earmarked for competitive bidding.
- 3) Any innovative arrangements that can guarantee partner commitment, delivery and sustainability in EOA implementation.

Considering the issues raised in the OCA and external evaluation reports, this next phase of EOA will address the following fundamental issues;

- ✓ Development and adoption of tools for monitoring at all levels of the EOA-I structure
- Tools at the beneficiary level, e.g. farmer record keeping book
- Tools at the pillar implementers' level; e.g. checklist of questions and field visit report
- Tools at the CLO level, e.g. project monitoring report
- Tools at the Executing Agency level, e.g. Verification checklist

3. Harmonization and Synergies Across Pillars (Building Network of Teams):

- ✓ Partners are currently doing a good work under their respective pillars, but with no clear sense of how they are aligned.
- ✓ It is proposed that the flagship projects under each of the pillars should be in alignment and complement each other to achieve synergies.
- ✓ This phase will adopt a strategy of 'network of teams', which will make it possible for not only country programmes to be aligned, but also have partners linked in real time with other pillars in other countries Pillar 1 has been revised to read Research and Applied Knowledge and Pillar 2 named Information Communication and Extension.

4. Harmonization and Synergies Across Pillars (Building Network of Teams):

- ✓ This revision allows for Pillar 1 to focus on knowledge generation and transformation into available forms for dissemination
- ✓ And Pillar 2 to focus on dissemination of information across value chains and strengthen the capacity of actors to work across the value chains.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIONS

- ✓ **BvAT and Pelum Kenya EOA teams attended BIOFACH 2018** and held meetings with Biofach senior management on Plans to Host Biofach Africa 2020. (**Annex 29: Biofach attendance report**)
- ✓ Dr. David Amudavi is a **member IFOAM OI World Board** where he represents Africa and attended 2 meetings in April and October 2018. The minutes of the board are private and therefore could not be shared with this report.
- ✓ David attended the FAO **Agroecology Workshop: Tools to support evidence-based decision-making on agroecology**, 8-9 October
- ✓ International Conference on Organic farming and Our Future Food Systems- Presented about EOA in Africa

- ✓ In Johannesburg David also attended the 4 per 1000 Africa Symposium on Soils for Food Security and Climate (24-26 Oct). It has potential for linkages with EOA-I.

BIOVISON AFRICA TRUST AT CONTINENTAL SECRETARIAT LEVEL

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4 : Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains

Output 4.5. A multi-stakeholder EOA in Africa Central Steering Committee established and operational

9TH CSC meetings in May in Rwanda

- Follow up and update reports to the Call for Actions from the 8th CSC
- Key decisions and resolutions made and ratified
- The CSC met Policy makers and EOA stakeholders in Rwanda
- Informed SDCs decision to roll out the project in Rwanda
- Update reports and approvals for the budgets and work plans for the EOA project
- Presentation of the results of the EER was done

10TH CSC

- Follow up and update reports to the Call for Actions from the 9th CSC
- Key decisions and resolutions made and ratified
- The CSC participated in the 4th AOC
- Update reports and approvals for the budgets and work plans for the EOA project
- Follow up on the Action Points based on the Key Decisions and Resolutions of the 2 meetings
- Supported the development and review of Success stories/Best practices workshop in Arusha for the Eastern Africa cluster
 - Success stories now published and shared
- Conducted Monitoring missions to Nigeria and Benin:
 - Monitoring report produced
- Participated in a continental ATPS climate tools workshop in Nairobi
 - Partnership is key to the new collaboration between EOAI and ATPS

- Participated in the GAP Advocacy workshop in Nairobi organized by PELUM Kenya
 - Advocacy report produced
- Participated in the Eastern Africa and West Africa SDC validation workshops
 - Recommendations available
- Supported the GIZ proposal development
 - Proposal funded
 - The new project to be aligned to EOAI
- Supported the SDC Phase II proposal development
 - Proposal funded
- Supported and attended the 4th AOC in Senegal.
 - Conference outcomes published

Resource Mobilization

- Successfully brought Turing Foundation - \$50,000 (Farmer Best practice videos-Mali, Benin and Kenya)
- Submitted proposals to OFiD- No response,
- Barcelo Foundation - Asked to resubmit proposal in September
- Ekhaga Foundation - Asked to resubmit proposal
- Climate Justice Resilience Fund Call for Proposals-Feedback in June 2019
- GIZ Proposal-Funded

The minutes of the 9th and 10th CSC meetings and its sub-committee were developed by the secretariat and shared with the CSC members (**Annex 30A: Minutes of the 9th CSC meeting; Annex 30B: Minutes of the 9th CSC Sub-Committee meeting; Annex 31A: Minutes of the 10th CSC meeting; Annex 30B: Minutes of the 10th CSC Sub-Committee meeting**)

2.2 REGIONAL PROGRESS

Contributing towards achievement of Outcome 4 : Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains

Output 4.4. Fully functional Regional platforms with Steering Committees established

Biovision Africa trust through the support from SDC coordinated implementation at the regional level of the 2-key active regional clusters of eastern Africa and west Africa during 2018.

In East Africa countries involved were Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia while in West Africa countries under SDC support involved in 2018 were Mali, Nigeria, Benin and Senegal.

The regional clusters have well established Regional Steering Committee (RSC's) chaired by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of ECOWAS and East African Community (not yet on board). The RECs are key in integration of EOA in regional and national policy and programs. Co-chairing is offered by NOAN in West Africa and in eastern Africa the RSC is chaired by Prof. Charles Ssekyewa formerly of UgoCert and now working for St. Lawrence University in Uganda. The Regional Steering Committee's continued to be strengthened during the implementation period.

West Africa Regional Platform

West Africa cluster continued to receive encouraging support from ECOWAS which currently has a dedicated officer Mr. Ernest Aubee chairing the RSC meetings. The entry of ECOWAS is key in raising the visibility of EOA at the regional level especially in integration of EOA in regional and national policy and programs as well as funds mobilization.

Key Milestones in the period

- I. Effective start-up of a Regional Secretariat with dedicated staff
- II. Organisation and inauguration of the Regional Steering Committee
- III. A visit to the CORAF Headquarters at Dakar, Senegal Effective participation of the Cluster at the 4th AOC. A total number of eighteen (18) strategic stakeholders was sponsored to attend the Conference.

Regional Steering Committee meetings: The hosting of the RSC meeting between 3rd and 4th May 2018 at the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) headquarters, Abuja, Nigeria, chaired by Ernest Aubee, of the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources ECOWAS Commissions, who is the Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee of EOA-I in West Africa was a very good development in the strengthening of partnerships between EOA-I and ECOWAS. **(Annex31: west Africa RSC minutes)**

The RSC main mandate is to mobilize for mainstreaming of EOA at the regional level by engaging with regional bodies like ECOWAS and also undertake strategic resource mobilization initiatives for the initiative.

The inauguration of the RSC in the region was also a very good development of bringing forth committed members to take forth the EOA agenda in the region. The members selected were as follows;

S/N	NAME	ORGANISATION	POST	COUNTRY
1	Mr Ernest Aubee	ECOWAS	Chairman	ECOWAS
2	Prof. Simplicie D. Vodouhe	PABE	Vice-chairman	Benin
3	Dr Olugbenga O. AdeOluwa	NOAN	Secretary	Nigeria
4	Ernest Pedro Comlan	PASCiB	Member	Benin
5	Seydou Tangara	AOPP	Member	Mali
6	Sir Mike Elechi	NACCIMA	Member	Nigeria
7	Dr Emile V. Coly	Min. of Agric. Senegal	Member	Senegal
8	Dr Abdulai Jalloh	CORAF, Senegal	Member	Senegal

4th AFRICA ORGANIC CONFERENCE: The cluster and its committee played an instrumental role in organizing and hosting the 4th AOC that took in Sally Senegal from 3rd to 5th November. The conference attracted more than 100 participants and came out with resolutions to take forward in the mainstreaming of EOA-I in Africa. (**Annex 32: 4th Africa Organic Conference Resolution**)

During the event, the west Africa cluster as well held a side event for their members. The West African 4th African Organic Conference' Side-event was an opportunity for the Cluster to showcase its activities in the region. A total number of 66 participants from 18 countries of which 13 were West African countries. Non-West African participants were from Morocco, Cameroun, Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland. The Regional Cluster sponsored a total number of fifteen (15) strategic stakeholders from eight (8) countries namely; Nigeria, Mali, Benin, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso.

Road-mapping EOA stakeholders in West Africa was one of the items discussed at the side-event. Hence, mapping out of the categories of relevant stakeholders was discussed in order to facilitate further studies in ecological organic agriculture in West Africa.

Establishment of West Africa Regional Secretariat in Nigeria was another key milestone during the reporting period. The Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria will host the secretariat for a period of 2 years. Their key mandate is to coordinate and support the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) EOA activities. With the secretariat in place, the RSC activities will be supported in a more strategic coordinated manner.

The 4th West Africa Organic conference (WAOC) took place in Mali. The conference was held in Bamako Mali from 5th to 7th Dec 2017 and was attended by approximately 140 participants. The main aim of the conference was to discuss and forge way forward on institutionalization of EOA in West Africa- Opportunity for niche creation of employment and investment. During the conference Ghana was selected as the next

host of the 5th WAOC. The resolution passed by the conference delegates was that ‘ the institutionalization of ecological and biological agriculture must take into account the complexity of the ecological, economic, political and socio-cultural context of the African continent and the West African region in particular, and integrate into a holistic, inclusive integrating the diversity of categories of stakeholders’, this in recognition of the various challenges and gaps in organic sector (research, documentation, marketing and policies) (**Annex 33: Quatrième Conférence Ouest Africaine de l’Agriculture Ecologique et Biologique**).

Networking and collaborations

The Regional cluster members continued to engage themselves strategically to grow the networks of its members into EOA-I as well as bring on board strategic members to support the advocacy of the initiative. During the implementation period, the RSC with ECOWAS Representative Mr. Ernest Aubee as the lead visited CORAF in Senegal. The aim of the visit was to discuss research needs of organic and ecological agriculture in West Africa, windows of opportunities for funding organic agriculture research in West Africa and possible collaborative projects with CORAF on organic agriculture research. The meeting was in two phases; one with the strategic members of staff of CORAF and the second part with the Director of Research of CORAF to finalise major decisions of the meeting.

Another avenue used for networking and information sharing has been through regional website called WafroNet. During the implementation period, the website was uploaded regularly with Regional Organic Network news and updates. The site also has a portal and interactive forum created to accommodate the West Africa Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative’ activities and Reports <https://wafroNet.bio/news/> .

The Secretariat is regularly generating data base for the regional platform and maintenance of website to showcase Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative’ activities in the region, using WAfrONet’ platform.

Eastern Africa Regional Platform

The EOA-I Eastern Africa Cluster has its Secretariat hosted under Pelum Kenya. The Secretariat is charged with supporting the implementation of activities of the Regional Steering Committee members.

During the reporting period, activity implementation was recorded at a rate of 100% with 2 RSC meetings being held

Documentation of Success stories: Pelum Kenya has been keen on documenting success stories in the region as a way of creating awareness on EOA-I to the public as well as to the policy makers to pass them the message that EOA-I can work.

During the implementation period, PELUM Kenya organized an Eastern Africa regional forum in Arusha, Tanzania, where partners in the region developed and presented their success stories in the forum. A total of 12 stories were presented and reviewed for further improvement. A total of 21 best stories and case studies for 2017 and 2018 were produced and published (**Annex 33: EOA success stories**). The following were the stories presented in Arusha:

1. Harnessing rain water for improved productivity by BvAT
2. How organic farming improves soil fertility, weed management and insect pest control by organic farmers- Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania.
3. Training on Application Techniques of Bio-pesticides for Pest Management in South eastern zone of Tigray- Mekelle University
4. Promoting ‘Hakika Organic Fertilizer’ a new soil improvement technology- Hakika organics
5. ICT for Agroecology- Swiss AID

6. Information Transforms Grassroots Livelihood- PELUM TZ.
7. Lifting Water for Organic Farms- ISD
8. Emerging EOA youth enterprises that is bringing sanity in Kianjugu village, Kimeriri location – Murang'a county- SACDEP
9. Improved market development for organic products- KOAN
10. Research Knowledge Nexus for Africa's Organic Movement- Egerton University
11. Farmer family learning group approach- NOGAMU
12. Re-focusing on the Agro-ecosystem to mitigate Climate Change, ensure health, food and nutrition security... Sustainable Development- UMU

Networking and Learning: youth and women are key beneficiaries to the initiative. Pelum Kenya during the implementation period took the 2-target groups for an exposure visit in Rwanda under coordination from ROAM. Total number of 12 (6M, 6F) youth and women farmers from six Eastern Africa region countries (Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia) participated.

The participants were exposed to Organic farmers practicing Organic Tree Tomatoes and Garlic production. The Participants interacted with successful COOPPF Cooperative members who apply the PGS methodology in Musanze District (Northern Province of Rwanda). They are organized in 5 PGS groups: 3 groups are producing Tree tomatoes, 1 group producing garlic, 1 group producing Irish Potatoes • The groups put production together before sale- Each group member gets revenue according to the supplied volume of production (kgs).

The Participants visited AgroPy Ltd in Musanze, Northern Province, Rwanda. AgroPy Ltd refines top quality Pyrethrum Pale Extract locally available. AgroPy's modern manufacturing facilities produce both liquid and powder products which have a key part to play in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and organic programmes. Such products allow farmers to supply clean food produce which leads to a healthier population. AgroPy also supplies organic consumer and public health pesticides for the control of flies, mosquitos and crawling insect pest and also visited SORWATHE tea factory who are the first in Rwanda to manufacture Orthodox and green tea. The factory is also the first to cultivate organic tea in the country. SORWATHE currently produces high quality green, black, oolong, and specialty teas for local and international markets. The report of the event was produced and shared with all EOA stakeholders (**Annex 34: Activity report for Youth and women exchange visit in Rwanda**)

Lobby for inclusion of EOA into National and Regional Policy Making Processes: Pelum Kenya supported policy makers from Regional trade bloc and national level participation in 2018 BIOFACH as a strategy for lobbying them to support EOA integration in policies.

The participants were from EAC, RSC, Ministry of Trade Uganda, Organic Farmer, Kenya Export Promotion Council and a PELUM Kenya staff.

From the 2018 BioFach, the EAC representative recommended that a concept note requesting for partnership with EAC be developed. PELUM Kenya came up with a concept note to EAC to request for partnership as well as to bring them on board in the RSC. An appointment was secured to present the partnership request at EAC Sectoral Council meeting in June 2018 at Arusha, Tanzania. Dr. David Amudavi from BvAT and Mr. Zachary Makanya from PELUM-Kenya presented the request but unfortunately the request was not successful. A recommendation was made that some of the values by the EOA Initiative

contradicted the provisions by EAC members (**Annex 35: Activity report for BIOFACH 2018 participation**)

The East Africa Parliamentary Committee (EPC) representative further recommended that EPC to consider supporting two of their staff in the 2019 BioFach trade fair for capacity building.

Regional Steering Committee Meetings: Two RSC meetings were held in 2018 with RSC members actively participating in the meetings. The 2018 annual work plan and budgets were presented for endorsement by the committee during the 1st RSC meeting held on 27th May 2018 (**Annex 36: Minutes of 6th RSC meeting**) and attended by 16 RSC members. The 2nd RSC meeting was held on 17th and 18th November 2018 (**Annex 37: Minutes of the 7th RSC meeting held in November 2018**) with 19 RSC members actively participating in the meeting. The 2019 annual work plan and budgets were presented for endorsement by the committee.

Key decisions and action points from the RSC meetings are as follows:

- ✓ Due diligence for NOGAMU to be done to bring them back to operations.
- ✓ Need of strengthening capacity building in fundraising to make sure that there are funds to support regional activities.
- ✓ Not to give up on EAC but to try new strategies for bringing EAC on board
- ✓ An MOU between RSC and host secretariat with clear roles and guidelines should be developed.
- ✓ Rwanda will be supported in the next SDC phase with possibilities of supporting Burundi through the Knowledge hub project.
- ✓ Enhanced monitoring and evaluation especially at the country level where the M&E framework should capture the results from the grassroots level.
- ✓ To engage women youth and the vulnerable in EOA activities by creating activities that will attract them.
- ✓ Review of the EAC strategy of engagement with clear guidelines

2.3 AFRONET PROGRESS

KEY PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Development of 2018 annual activities which were included and submitted as annual plans to Biovision Trust for approval and funding. The AfrONet annual EOA workplan was integrated and shared to all the PIPs, which kicked off the 2018 implementation.
2. Development and submission of 2017 EOA annual narrative and financial reports to BioVision Trust. These summed up all activities that AfrONet engaged in or implemented for the entire January to December 2017, for consolidation of EOA-I report to the donor. The report captured achievements gained, opportunities identified, challenges faced and suggested solutions.
3. AfrONet participated at the BioFach fair in Germany in February where Mr Gama Jordan, the AfrONet President, attended occasions to discuss with other organic actors from Africa and worldwide. The BioFach fair attracted worldwide stakeholders and representation from African

governments, who were sponsored to attend. In particular, the Minister of Agriculture from Zanzibar attended among other government officials and farmer leaders. This exposure enabled the government officials to re-think of ecological organic agriculture, like what the minister of agriculture in Zanzibar stated during the interview after his return from BioFach that the government has plans to green the island with organic agricultural interventions as the island already exports organic spices among other crops.

4. AfrONet made a pivotal role in organizing and linking Rwanda Organic Agricultural Movement to the wider EOA Initiative that led to hosting the Continental Steering Committee in Kigali held from 21st to 25th May 2018. This was due to AfrONet's engagement with ROAM in On the OTEA program that is funded by SIDA through IFOAM – Organics international. An opportunity was made for ROAM to attend the CSC and presented what they are engaged in, opportunities for EOA expansion and linking EOA stakeholder to the Rwanda government representative meeting that was held by a select committee of members to discuss EOA opportunities with the government. This ended well as the country of Rwanda has made many steps towards greening their economy and agriculture and their existing interventions and policies that favour EOA interventions.
5. Production and distribution of communication materials to stakeholders and the public across member NOAMs was done. These include the 2018 calendars, brochures and newsletters.
6. EOA project evaluation was conducted by a consultant from Kenya who visited AfrONet offices in Dar-es-Salaam. AfrONet team collaborated through sharing information that contributed to documentation of EOA successes. Participated in PIPs reflection meeting with the consultant in Dar-es-Salaam to get feedback of the assessment.
7. AfrONet President participated at the South Africa Organic Sector Organization (SAOSO) Annual General Meeting (AGM) that took place in Johannesburg, South Africa in Early May 2018. Participation to the general assembly was paramount in linking south Africa to the ecological organic Africa initiatives and African organic network.
8. AfrONet was represented by Mr. Gama Jordan, the President, at the slow food event exhibition at South Western Township (SOWETO), which had different stakeholders and he shared about EOA-I activities and the need for SAOSO to join the wider organic sector. There was commitment from the South Africa stakeholders especially University of Johannesburg to participate at the 4th AOC, which scheduled for Yaoundé, Cameroon, but later changed to Senegal in West Africa.
9. Developed biannual newsletters for EOA activities capturing information from many parts of Africa. These covered periods from Jan to June and July to Dec 2018.
10. AfrONet was represented by Ms. Esther Bett, a Board member, at the regional EOA steering meeting in Nairobi in the month of April 2018.
11. AfrONet participated fully in two Continental Steering Committee meetings and the two subcommittee meetings of EOA in May 2018, held in Kigali, Rwanda and November 2018 in Dakar Senegal.
12. AfrONet Updated its website with information posts, WhatsApp platforms established, Facebook increased usage to share information on EOA-I to stakeholders' online traffic, the 4th AOC and online interactive communication.

13. Strengthening policy issues on organic farming, was enhanced with meeting Zanzibar government officials and discussed on adoption of green farming (organic) for the island.
14. Resource mobilization drive on organic agriculture for Africa is on-going, with aim to increase operations of AfrONet proposal writing to cover southern and eastern Africa.
15. Conducted the 4th Africa Organic Conference from 5th to 7th November in Saly, Senegal with participation of 160 people from across Africa, Europe, Asia and America. This activity was initially planned for Yaoundé, Cameroon, but due to political instability, two months prior to the conference, all partners moved the organic conference to Senegal and 4th AOC had to be moved to as well. This is because the organic actors had planned to have a series of meetings in one country within a short time so that some costs and fatigue could be avoided. These activities involved reorganizing afresh for Senegal more efforts and financial resources were channeled in Cameroon. This involved mobilization, resource mobilization and sharing of information about the change earlier to avoid misinformation and wastage.
16. AfrONet developed and updated the 2018 African Organic Directory from the 2017 version. This copy will be posted on line as budget for printing of hard copies is limited.
17. AfrONet Programs Director was facilitated to Germany for a study on organic agriculture technologies and energy development in the state of Bavaria, in October 2018. The study was supported by Bavarian Government, with own facilitation for flights and per –diems, was useful for transfer of technology and knowledge for African organic sector which is still young. The study lectures at university, field visit to organic farmers, academicians, in Rothenberg, Nuremburg, Strobing and Berlin. Studied about organic livestock, solar and wind energy, value addition and food processing, mechanization. Food preservation in tonnages for perishables like round potatoes for 11 months was technology worthy to be copied as Africa incurs post-harvest losses for perishables to over 35% of what is harvested, that can help to improve ion nutrition and food security and increased income.
18. AfrONet was instrumental in Machakos meeting organized for PIPs for the EOA-I to plan for EOA-I Phase II. The meeting took place in July-August 2018 with all PIP participating including Rwanda, which is being considered for phase II. Members evaluated the phase I of EOA, proposed interventions to improve the sector, which later enabled to develop actions for phase II that have been influential in the development of phase II proposal document.

2.4 NATIONAL PROGRESS

2.4.1 OVERVIEW

During the implementation period under reporting, 7 countries out of the 8 funded countries implemented the project. The project was implemented in Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Benin, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Uganda partners with Nogamu as the Country Lead Organization did not implement during this period because of institutional challenges that ranged from mismanagement of donor funds for Sida as well as for SDC. The mismanagement of funds led to most of the donors suspending their support to Nogamu a key organic movement in Uganda. This led to the exit of the senior management team led by the Executive Director, the Finance Manager, Human and administrative manager, marketing and certification managers and majority of support staff.

The changes also catalyzed further mismanagement of EOA-I funds that were still being held by NOGAMU the last quarter of 2017. With this realization, BvAT disallowed all expenditures for 2017 and orders Nogamu to refund the funds through a commitment letter dated 20th December 2018.

In addition to the suspension of NOGAMU, Makerere University in charge of information and Communication Pillar was suspended during the 1st quarter of 2018 after BvAT realized key contractual obligations had been ignored. Makerere had not finalized their contract with NOGAMU and were also engaging a private organization to implement the project activities on behalf of Makerere University without any contractual terms. The principal leader of the project as well was managing the project funds through his personal accounts therefore the funds were not safe under such an arrangement as well as the account was not open to financial scrutiny by BvAT. Efforts to have the issues addressed by Prof. Kabi in charge of Pillar 2 were unfruitful. With this realization, BvAT ordered NOGAMU to request Makerere University to refund funds for the project and suspend activities immediately. The funds were recovered by Nogamu and wired back to the EOA accounts.

In Ethiopia, the project realized good progress after the National Steering Committee selected PAN Ethiopia to come on board as the organization in charge of Pillar 2 (Information and Communication Pillar). This was a good boost to the project especially with the key role of Pillar 2 in information synthesis, packaging and dissemination to various stakeholders especially to farmers and policy makers. Pillar 2 in Ethiopia fell vacant since September 2016 after the collapse and closure of PANOS Ethiopia. PAN Ethiopia brings in expertise in advocacy work fighting against synthetic chemicals with good networks and relationships with the government.

A monitoring visit to Senegal in September 2018 brought out organizational weaknesses especially financial controls by ASPAB in charge of Pillar 2. Clear evidence of mismanagement of funds was noted especially wrong and weak documentation of financial expenditures, lack of technical documentation support of evidence of activity execution as well as poor petty cash management. The organization also did not put in controls in funds requisition and utilization.

With this realization BvAT requested ASPAB to refund mismanaged funds. They obliged with refunds being affected in November 2018.

On the positive side, Mali partners eventually after lagging behind for 2 years, developed the Mali EOA Strategic plan as well as developed an EOA Communication strategy. EOA in west Africa has received a lot of support from Mali partners who have been very committed to the project. In Tanzania, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through Minister of Trade, Industries and Marketing was allocated resources for organic strategy development by selected team of 8 technical persons including TOAM Board chairperson and CEO and indication of the awareness that TOAM has created on EOA-I and the interest the government has created to support the movement. Tanzania over the years has in total 151,604 certified farmers and 3,700 PGS all over the country. They have also made strides in the mainstreaming of EOA-I into the curricula by having incorporation of EOA into curricula of higher learning institutions, for instance established Ph.D and Masters Programs at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).

In Benin, the inclusion of livestock sector in EOA-I continues to be one of their key focus and during the implementation period a study showed that the notion of organic farming is still very little known, stating that the livestock breeder who experiment ecological and organic livestock have not yet been trained in the field with each one of them relying on his endogenous knowledge to practice ecological livestock. This study is a good awareness creation to the government to develop and include favorable policies in the livestock organic sector that seems to have been ignored for a while not just in Benin but worldwide.

Benin partners have also undertaken studies to show that organic production is more profitable and suitable than conventional production. Such studies are crucial for awareness creation and a basis for inclusivity of EOA-I practices in the government policies.

In Kenya the project focused on youth involvement. Generally young people tend to be forgotten in the agriculture sector with majority of African countries using young children for cheap and forced labor. During the implementation period, **increased youth involvement in agriculture was realized through the** school garden concept that began in 2017. A total of 5 schools have so far been involved with 100 pupils being reached directly. The positive response from the first year of implementation which involved 2 schools led to the upscaling in the second year (2018). The school gardens have proved to be a source of learning outcomes not only for pupils directly involved, but also for other members of the school community and beyond. Outcomes for the pupils include:

- Increased knowledge in food production.
- Positive attitude towards healthy food choices.
- Increased sense of responsibility from tending their crops.
- Increased self-confidence and esteem from sharing their knowledge during field days held at the school garden sites.
- Income generation for the pupils from sales of their vegetables.

The domestic organic market as well continues to grow under the initiative across the implementing countries. In Kenya, the normal organic outlets continued to grow in volume and diversity. The outlets are: Kalimoni Greens Organic Shop, Bridges Organic Health Restaurant, Organic farmers market at Bridges Organic Health Restaurant, US embassy, International school of Kenya, Purdy Arms, The HUB and Ridgeway Mall. New outlets or marketing opportunities in the year included organic farmers market at Karengata which has drawn a lot of interest and is expected to increase publicity for organic products. New organic markets were also started at the German school and 2 Rivers mall. Tuskys Supermarket also launched a dedicated supermarket located in Karen as an organic supermarket. Other remarkable developments

included the expansion of Carrefour supermarkets to have organic section at Sarit Centre, Thika Road Mall and Village market stores.

In Nigeria, the organic market sector also continues to receive more support when the revised Standard of Organic Agriculture in Nigeria was finalized and presented to the Deputy Consular General of Switzerland in Nigeria - Mrs. Ngozi Anyanso who represented the Consular General of Switzerland in Nigeria. A Special Award of Honour was also presented to the Switzerland Government in recognition of the support received from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Africa and more importantly Nigeria. The award was presented to the Deputy Consular General of Switzerland in Nigeria.

Partners are also learning some critical lessons as follows;

To expand Organic Markets

- There is huge market for organic products at the domestic market which needs to be utilized. More consumer awareness which is targeted need to be undertaken consistently.
- More exposure needs to be done for trader and policy makers through local and international trade fairs to learning forums for opportunities in organic markets.
- For organic to get the attention of the public and create a following (actual consumers) there is need to build on consumer awareness especially on the Kilimohai mark for Eastern Africa standards. There is also needed to create interest of the policy makers so that organic can be mainstreamed.
- Organic consumption should move to the mainstream markets especially the supermarkets and mainstream shops such as green grocers, where more consumers do their shopping.
- More effort needs to be put on development of guarantee system for the local market. This should also be integrated with surveillance on the use of the Kilimohai mark.
- Social media is an important tool for educating young consumers on benefits of consuming organic food yet hardly used across the EOA-I countries
- ICS and PGS development is a continuous process. The changes in staffing levels of organic project means there is need for continuous capacity building

Networking and Partnership building

- Lower private sector involvement in the sector. Therefore, need to enhance their engagement through awareness campaigns and forums to increase their level of participation in EOA activities.
- Working with partners has enhanced our outreach in terms of number of farmers reached as well as area covered.
- Information enables farmers make informed choices
- Targeting farmers with a felt need improves adoption
- Focus on training school children should be increased as they are key to the future of implementation of sustainable agriculture practices and technologies.
- The collaboration and engagements of stakeholders from Agricultural Research Center and higher learning institutes and agricultural offices helped in knowledge and skill transfer and becomes a reason

for government offices to be influenced by EOA achievements. It attributed for more support in inputs to farmers and requests to ISD to work with government on EOA.

Overall Implementation challenges

1. The biggest challenge that most partners across the implementing countries experience is the limited supply of organic products because of lack of conducive government policies supporting production. Majority of the governments have been more oriented towards conventional inputs with majority subsidizing to farmers
2. Unpredictable weather changes also cut across. The rainy season was delayed across many countries thus affecting production and supply of organic products in the market.
3. Pest infestation especially the fall army worm across east African countries has heavily affected production of maize.
4. Low consumer awareness about organic farming and products

2.4.2 PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

TANZANIA

TOAM continues to coordinate the PIPs successfully with commendable control in overall coordination. TOAM and partners consolidated and submitted work plans and budgets for 2018 and mid-term and annual reports on time.

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by SAT
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by Pelum Tanzania
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by TOAM
- ✓ Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by TOAM

Overall Achievements

- Incorporation of EOA into curricula of higher learning institutions, for instance established Ph.D and Masters Programs at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA).
- Positive trend of on-going processes to establish training program at certificate and Diploma levels
- Increased stakeholders' awareness on EOA practices knowledge and application through training, national campaigns, exposure visits and sharing of information communication materials such as brochures and booklets.
- Increased EOA initiative visibility/publicity through supporting of stakeholders to participate in different related events at National and International levels.
- Intensification and scaling up of EOAI through resources mobilization, for instance, organic agriculture project intervened using Farmers Family Learning Groups Approach in 10 villages of Chamwino district, Dodoma region.

- In total, there are 151,604 certified farmers and 3,700 PGS all over the country.
- Increased EOA knowledge and practices among farmers
- Increased access to EOA related information among stakeholders
- Inclusion and recognition of EOA in National policy, strategy and program in Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar)
- Transformation of farmers lives through access to and use of EOA information materials (see testimony narrated under activity 2.1.4 below).

Achievements Highlights

Pillar 1: Towards Contribution of Outcome 1: Ecological Organic Products related knowledge along the value chain is increasingly documented and actors capacitated to translate it into practices and application.	
Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On station EOA research demonstration sites continued to serve as avenues for dissemination and update of EOA related knowledge and practices. ✓ During the implementation period, research information from the demonstration sites was disseminated to 25 lead farmers from CARTAS, TOAM, PELUM, SAT and KARI was held at SAT FTC in Morogoro who as well developed action plans on how to disseminate the information to other farmers.
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A training curriculum model was drafted and shared with a mandated government. This was a move in the right direction in efforts to continue supporting EOA-I programmes to be represented in training national curriculums. ✓ Through developed short courses farmers continued to be capacitated with organic farming knowledge with trainings in the year focusing on topics such as; ecology concept, soil fertility management, compost making, crop rotation, green manure, cover crops, diseases and pests management. Also participants were exposed to some findings of researches conducted on agro-ecology.
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 60% implementation of all planned activities for 2018 was achieved.
Contribution towards Outcome 2. Producers are systematically informed and made aware about the EOA approaches and good practices and motivated to apply them by having access to strengthened advisory and support services	
Information and	Achievements

Communication Pillar	
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1,015 farmers (638 males & 377 females) in 4 villages namely Chamwino, Chinangali I, Makoja and Wilunze in Chamwino accessed EOA information communication materials with reports of positive impact on farmers being reported. ✓ By end of December 2018, EOA-I reports further improvement of farmers' lives due to right adoption of its practices and technologies. This fact is supported by a series of documented farmers success stories, that is, the one detailed in January - June 2018 report and other reported below: ✓ The theme "EOA education creates a base across ages" reflects across ages achievements of farmers resulting from right adoption of EOA practices and technologies. This fact is supported by three farmers namely Bosco Mathias, Sophia Omari and Stephen Hassan aged at 26, 46 and 63 years respectively. ✓ Success story 1: About Bosco Mrope Bosco Mathias, who is 26 years OLD admits that his job as organic farm attendant at Masasi Women Development Association (MAWODEA) earns him a salary, networks, with people and gains more skills for managing the garden and his farm. <i>"I have two siblings that I help them with basic needs such as uniforms, shoes and stationeries," says Bosco as he concludes, "Without being part of EOA training while in Mwenya village and now here at MAWODEA, it is difficult to predict of by whereabouts at this time."</i>
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 60% implementation of activities planned for 2017 was recorded with shortage of time due to delays in receiving funds from CLO being pegged as the main reason.
Contribution towards Outcome 3: A substantially increased share of organic quality products at the local, national and regional markets is achieved	
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Due to the support for farmers to access market data and information, In year 2016 and 2018, approximately 10,000MT from 69 actors were sold to both foreign and local markets that benefited around 85,404 out grower farmers across the country. The sold products include vegetables, fruits, legumes, cereals and fibres. ✓ The 42nd DITF linked 500 organic producers to markets and signed business contracts that worth TZS 15 million in total. ✓ Frank horticultural company in Njombe region is one of DITF beneficiaries; it meets both domestic and regional market requirements. The company secured a business contract that worth \$ 65,000, that is, selling 118 tones of organic avocado @ \$0.55/kg) ✓ Opening of new market outlets thus generating more seller outlets for the organic products was also realized a good sign that the market is developing. Initially

	<p>TOAM had 7 outlets during which in 2018 added 1 more. The shop is supplied with organic fruits and vegetables products from Tanzpro green farm located in Mkuranga about 200kms from Dar es Salaam town. Also, 5tones capacity truck was branded with Kilimohai Mark and EOA-I related messages. The truck regularly supplies organic produces to markets around Dar es salaam city.</p>
<p>Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Value Chain Study (VCD) was undertaken that recommended more interventions to build strong farmers organizations, increase access to organic inputs, reduce post-harvest losses, reduce organic certification costs (third party) and enhance marketing arrangements ✓ The study recommends EOAI-II phase II to invest on information generation and sharing across EOA stakeholders including farmers for learning purposed. For instance, documenting and sharing success stories
<p>Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support to various farmers and farmer groups to become organic certified continued during the implementation period.
<p>Contribution towards Outcome 4: Fully functional multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, regional and continental levels, mutually agreeing on well-coordinated and concerted action, informed by scientific evidence and local knowledge lead to EOA positive changes in public policies and investment plans, in technical standards and certification procedures, in research agenda and training curricula, in advisory and information practices and in the organization of markets and value chains.</p>	
<p>Supporting and Cementing Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Influencing existing policies, strategies and programs support to agro-ecology/ organic agriculture development continued during the reporting period and has commendable developments as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incorporation of nutritional crops use into National Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (NMNAP) 2016 – 2021 ➤ Development of National guidelines on Organic farming and organic food products ➤ Mainstreaming of EOA-I related interventions in some sections of ASDP II ✓ The exposure of policy makers to relevant events has been an effective process towards mainstreaming the EOA in government policies, strategies and programs ✓ The National Steering Committee during the implementation period held one meeting in the last quarter of the year where participation involved 26 stakeholders. The NSC informed and analytical capacity gives its existence rationale and

	functionality as one of the National platforms for EOA-I development
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened	✓ TOAM and its Pillar Implementing partners supported the development of EOA-I phase 2 proposal with enrichments on content on organic sector in Tanzania. This support has paved way for better EOA-I mainstreaming in Tanzania through the 2 nd phase with better understanding of situations on the ground.

ETHIOPIA

Implementation in Ethiopia is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by Mekelle University
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – PAN Ethiopia
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD)
- ✓ Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by ISD

With support of BvAT in September 2017, an urgent meeting was called and held between BvAT Executive Director and EOA stakeholders in Ethiopia to try and address the stalemate in selection of Pillar 2 Organization and recovery of funds held by PANOS Ethiopia. In the meeting ISD and NSC agreed to send commitment letter to BvAT () showing their plans to recover funds from PANOS Ethiopia and their commitment to refund lost funds to BvAT **Annex 9: Commitment letter from ISD to BvAT and Annex 11: Ethiopia Mission report by BvAT)**

Once the commitment letter was submitted by Sue Edwards the Executive Director for ISD, BvAT released funds for 2017 to the 3 active pillars (ISD and Mekelle University) and withheld funds for Pillar 2

Pillar Implementing Partners and National Steering Committee held a planning meeting in November to plan for the next year (2018) and submitted the activity plan and budget for 2018 to BvAT.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	Mekelle University in charge of this pillar continued to generate research into use by establishing 2 integrated demonstration sites in Wuko Agricultural College and Maichew Agricultural College where different ecological organic practices (such as agroforestry, agronomy, livestock, horticulture were show cased Demonstrations on various organic practices were also undertaken in the demo plots like practical operations with compost preparation; horticulture practices, agronomic practices, ecologically organic pest diseases management trials, livestock forage etc.
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and	

implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	✓ 50% implementation of planned activities was achieved however with majority of activities ongoing and rolled over to 2018
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in awareness on value and practices of EOA was taken up very well by the newly selected PAN Ethiopia in charge of this pillar and good progress continued to be shown in attaining this objective. ✓ For this purpose, an article titled ‘The gradual take off of Ecological Organic Agriculture in Ethiopia ‘ was written and sent to PAN-UK to be posted on part of their website dedicated for best practices and successful stories of EOA. After written, the article was edited by PAN-UK staff scientist. It is now posted on the website. http://www.pan-uk.org/the-rise-of-organic-agriculture-in-ethiopia/. The link was shared among PIPs, partners’ organizations and stakeholders. As PAN-UK is an internationally renowned organization; the posting of the UK website would eventually increase the visibility to the achievements of EOA in Ethiopia.
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	✓ 8 Resource centers managed by the government were ear marked for further support in order to increase EOA outreach to farmers. The resource centers were equipped with brochures and video programs on EOA. The distribution and equipping of the resource centers with organic information will create more awareness and enhance uptake of EOA-I practices by farmers
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	✓ 1 supervision trip was carried to the 8 recourse centers in order to identify the needs and gaps in the centers for future support
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in traded organic products and market outlets was one of the key progress for market generation in Ethiopia ✓ Local farmers market day have been taking place in established market outlets both in Haike (May 23 and June 1. 24 2018) and Holeta town. 94 customers came to the market in Haike and 44 in Holeta. Consumers where been informed about organic production of vegetable. ✓ was achieved in 2017. This was due to increased support to organic retail outlets through branding, awareness creation and information dissemination. (Annex 39:

	<p>Kenya Rebranding of a retail outlet supermarket called Carrefour Supermarket report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Directly reaching 3,000 potential organic customers ✓ Benefitting 60 organic farmers through market linkage enabling them to earn Ksh 200,000 monthly. ✓ Different new organic produce were added during the implementation period because markets and consumer awareness generated the need for the farmers to grow them especially organic vegetables like Indigenous kale called Yehabesha Gomen, Lettuce, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Carrot, Green Beans, Zeccuni, Green Onions, Cabbage, Chilly, Tomato, lemon, celery, Ethiopian basil and rue.
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In 2018 new farmers are joined from Holeta area Welemera wereda, Bekeka and Welemera Chokie Kebeles (50) and Holeta from Tewelederie wereda Nibo Kebele 45. So far, the total number of farmers reached five hundred ninety (590).
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 100% of activities undertaken
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Ethiopia EOA national platform and the National Steering Committee (NSC) were quite vibrant and engaged in fruitful oversight activities under the project. The NSC took charge of advertising the position of an organization to join the EOA-I in Information and Communication Pillar as well as supported the selection and contracting process of the selected organization, PAN Ethiopia. ✓ The new Pillar II implementer Pesticide Action Nexus Association - Ethiopia (PAN Ethiopia) was also approved by the executing agency and funds transferred. PAN-Ethiopia started is now implementing the Information and Communication pillar in June 2018. ✓ Various key documents for guiding mainstreaming of EOA in Ethiopia were finalized in the implementation period. These documents included the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A preliminary assessment of the ‘State of Ethiopia’s EOA Sector’ ii. The EOA Roadmap - Roadmap for the full and effective implementation of the EOA policy instruments issued by the Government of Ethiopia iii. The EOA - Implementation tools and iv. The PGS Guide for organic certification
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	

KENYA

Implementation in Kenya is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners:

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by Egerton University
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by Biovision Africa Trust
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Market Development Pillar - Implemented by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
- ✓ Pillar Four: Supporting and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

2. **Increased youth involvement in agriculture.** The school garden project is on-going having begun in 2017. A total of 5 schools have been involved with 100 pupils being reached directly. The positive response from the first year of implementation which involved 2 schools led to the upscaling in the second year. The school gardens have proved to be a source of learning outcomes not only for pupils directly involved, but also for other members of the school community and beyond. Outcomes for the pupils include:
 - Increased knowledge in food production;
 - Positive attitude towards healthy food choices
 - Increased sense of responsibility from tending their crops
 - Increased self-confidence and esteem from sharing their knowledge during field days held at the school garden sites.
 - Income generation for the pupils from sales of their vegetables.
3. **Increase in food and nutrition security and income.** 2 field staff supported by the project trained 2,500 farmers (1,920 female, 580 male) during the reporting period. Capacity building of farmers on sustainable agriculture practices and technologies resulted in adoption of innovations leading to increased production, better health and environmental conservation. Trainings were carried out through group training, exhibitions, exchange visits and provision of training materials.

4. **Improved project implementation.** Through monitoring visits, the staff were supported to improve on their implementation. Regular monitoring reduces the risk of project failure as problems are identified early and solutions provided.
5. **Strengthened advisory support services.** Capacity building of field staff enabled them to be more effective in reaching out to farmers. Through provision of training materials (manuals and posters) and equipment (camera and laptop), the staff were able to improve their outreach to farmers as well as reporting.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
<p>Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Functional systems established for dissemination and update of EOA related knowledge and practices in Egerton University have been established through an online repository www.coai.org/research. The repository has over 300 documents on livestock and crop related topics have been collected during the project period (2014-2017). In 2017, 57 publications concentrated on research in crops while 29 publications concentrated on research in animals. The repository continued to be updated in 2018 where 100 documents were added. ✓ Egerton in bid to populate and disseminate EOA information published 2 journal papers namely; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trends Organic Crop Research in Africa ➤ Trend in Organic Livestock Research in Africa ✓ Validation of EOA research has also been going on and was supported to continue in 2018. Egerton has been supporting various field trial studies like the study on the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i). Effect of tillage practices on highland cocoyam (<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott) var. <i>antiquorum</i>) also known as “arrowroot” or “Nduma” in Kenya and that on ii). Efficacy of bio-pesticide on fall armyworm. The 2 studies/trials are almost being finalised and the results have been good so far in supporting organic practices and technologies. The 2 will add to the knowledge needed to help farmers convert and practice organic farmers as well create awareness among policy makers ✓ Local knowledge documentation was taken further in the implementation period where a study of an indigenous group in Kenya called OGIEK community of MAU forest was submitted for publications. The following papers were submitted and published during the 4th Africa Organic Conference in Sally Senegal.

	<p>✓ The papers were also presented to more than 200 EOA- I stakeholders who attended the conference.</p> <p>The papers are out in the public with the following topics;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Status of Agroforestry Among The Ogiek of Nakuru County, Kenya ii. Trends in indigenous knowledge on crop, livestock and beekeeping among the Ogiek Community of Nakuru County, Kenya iii. Status of ethnomedicine among the Ogiek of Nakuru County, Kenya <p>✓ In the area of demand driven research, A Master of Science study entitled “Assessment of Human Exposure to Pesticide Residues in Exotic Vegetables Sold in Selected Markets In Nakuru Town, Kenya”, was done in Moi University laboratory. The Masters student has since finished analysing her samples of organic and conventional produce sourced from different markets in Nakuru and Nairobi.</p> <p>✓ The final results show that conventional produce sourced from the Nakuru municipal market had high levels of commonly used pesticides which were pyrethroids whose active ingredients were Lamba-cyhalothrin and Cypermethrin.</p> <p>✓ The most unexpected finding was that Spinach contained higher levels of the above listed chemicals than Kales which is sprayed more often. The social survey conducted on farmers had indicated that they seldom sprayed on spinach.</p> <p>✓ A full paper on the study was presented at the 12th Egerton University International Conference and Agricultural Summit. Another paper “Determination of Pesticide Residues in Organic and Conventional Exotic Vegetables” has also been submitted to the Africa Organic Conference. (Annex 38: Kenya: Assessment of Human Exposure to Pesticide Residues in Exotic Vegetables Sold In Selected Markets In Nakuru Town, Kenya)</p>
<p>Output 1.2. Capacity for Organisation and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened</p>	<p>In the development of an EOA-I curriculum at various levels, the progress was minimal, Egerton University managed to finalize the draft curriculum. Egerton has a draft Diploma in Organic Agriculture Curriculum that was developed in 2016 through 2017. Finalizing on the curriculum requires heavy investment and will be planned for in the next phase</p>
<p>Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities</p>	<p>✓ 100% implementation of planned activities was achieved however with majority of activities ongoing and rolled over to 2018</p>

effectively enhanced	
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase in uptake of ecological organic farming technologies and innovation by farmer advisory and information services as well as awareness creation on EOA practices continued to increase through establishment and trainings through workshops of school gardens in 2 primary schools (public and private schools.). ✓ The workshop was very fruitful, having been facilitated by an external consultant with experience in establishing school gardens. (Annex 39: Kenya IC Pillar School garden establishment workshop report) ✓ The school garden concept has been well received by the school administration as well as the pupils. ✓ Various manuals and posters with content on organic farming practiced were developed and distributed to farmer resource centres. The Field staff in the 2 EOA resource centres will use the manuals as reference material for trainings. They will also be availed to 11 FCP resource centres and partner PIPs for wider use. The Climate Smart Agriculture Training was generously donated to us by FAO Kenya Office (Annex 40: Kenya: Training Manuals)
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The resource centre staff (2) are supported with funds for communication, information materials, inputs for holding demonstrations and field days. ✓ Trainings were done various practices and technologies in sustainable agriculture such as compost making, water harvesting, production of indigenous vegetables, local poultry, kitchen and school gardens. The two resource centers under the EOA programme based in Western Kenya (Kakamega and Busia counties) continued to be supported with resources to ensure efficient service delivery to farmers. They carry out farmer and youth trainings on relevant and appropriate sustainable technologies and practices. ✓ Capacity building of 2,500 farmers (1,920 female, 580 male) was undertaken during the reporting period.) ✓ Equipping the field staff helps to enhance the outreach of the staff to farmers and submission of quality reports (Annex 41: Kenya: Sample field Officer report)
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2 monitoring visits undertaken to KALRO Kakamega and SINGI CBO resource centres to assess project implementation. Discussions held with resource centre staff and farmers were visited to assess adoption of technologies trained on. ✓ The visit showed that field activities were on course. Farmers were able to show the benefits of the trainings they had received. ✓ Through the monitoring visits, the PIP coordinator is able to assess progress of

	<p>implementation and provide support for areas that need improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 90% implementation of set activities was achieved with setbacks due to disruptions of 2 National Presidential elections undertaken within a period of 6 months.
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The organic market sector in Kenya continued to expand in 2018 with the opening of 2 new organic markets namely; Nairobi International school of Kenya organic market and German school market ✓ The two new markets have grown tremendously. Karengata market is retailing 6 days in a week. 45 farmers are already participating in the two markets. (Annex 42: Kenya: Karen Market field visit report)
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Building capacity of Internal Certification Control (ICS) on PGS enabling increased compliance in organic standards. At least 30 stakeholders were reached (Annex 43: Matuu Sofia Farmers Training)
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1 mentoring visit done for Jungle Macs during external inspection. Ngong organic farmers group visit enabled the group to plan for PGS activities such as peer review, participation in NITF and other markets which strengthened the group. (Annex 44: Kenya: Certification support Jungle Macs 2018)
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 100% of activities undertaken
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Kenya EOA national platform has been fully in operational with the National Steering Committee following keenly on the progress of EOA implementation at the country level. The NSC held 2 meetings in 2018 in which partner workplans, progress reports and exchange sharing were done. The NSC has been key in keeping track of the project implementation by giving advice and support especially in creating synergies of the implementing partners. (Annex 45: Kenya: Kenya National Steering Committee meeting report)

	✓ Mainstreaming of EOA into National Policies continued to be one key activity with counties joining the movement. A case of Kirinyaga County Government who in their plan had identified a city as an organic city. The County Governor's acknowledgement of organic foods has given the EOA sector a good push because the Governor of the county is very well known and an influential figure in the Kenyan political arena (Annex 46: Kenya: Kirinyaga county trade fair report-2018)
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	✓ A PIP meeting was organized to discuss the 2017 Work Plans and to identify activities that could be implemented jointly, the EOA Strategic Plan- Dates, venue and the process, Reporting/Finance Formats, and Joint Fundraising opportunities
Output 4.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	

NIGERIA

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

- i. Government has embraced organic agriculture in her programmes. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has continued to include organic inputs as part of the subsidized materials meant for distribution to farmers nationwide in Growth Enhancement Scheme (GES). A unit of the ministry has a full flesh organic division since 2007.
- ii. Mainstreaming of EOA Initiative into the state Agricultural Development Agencies is gradually becoming a reality. At present, the capacity of at least 9 States (Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Ogun, Lagos, Ekiti, Anambra, Cross River and Akwa-Ibom) to address issues on organic agriculture has been empowered.
- iii. The multi-stakeholder national platform of EOA is getting widened, bringing in more stakeholders. This has resulted in different business networking activities in the country. In fact, 49 farmers groups development was achieved as networking activity.
- iv. The opportunity to honour Switzerland government at the National Organic Agriculture Business Summit was also a great achievement. The representative of the Consular who is the Deputy Consular General of Switzerland in Nigeria; Mrs. Ngozi Anyanso was presented with the Organic Agriculture Standard in Nigeria (a private standard) at the summit.
- v. Information on the benefits of organic agriculture was translated into Ibibio language. This is the sixth language of communicating publications of the Initiative.
- vi. At least four publications (260 articles' database of organic agriculture research and 3 monographs) and other fliers were produced.

- vii. There is an increase in marketing activities of organic produce locally and sensitization for export is on-going.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

A competitive support for technologies relevant to EOA research at post graduate level was announced. Nine entries were submitted (5 applicants for PhD and 4 applicants for MSc programmes). At the end of the process, 2 MSc and 1 PhD applicants were awarded the support for their field work. The selection was principally due to the philosophy of their research and relevance to EOA initiative. Details of successful applicants are presented below:

S/N	Name of candidate	Category	Topic	Institution
1	Taiwo Deborah Oluwaniyi	MSC	Influence of Organic Herbicides on soil Health and Production of Okra.	University of Ibadan
2	Elufisan Tobi Susan	MSC	Efficacy of root dip of four tomato (<i>Lycopersion esculentum mill</i>) in some plant based biopesticides in the management of root knot nematode (<i>meloidogyne incognita</i>).	Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta
3	Opeyemi Matilda Oyewole	PhD	Evaluation of Modified Pressurized hot water Extraction Method and calibration of phosphorus fertilizer for Organic Tomato Production in alfisols of Ibadan.	University of Ibadan

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In Nigeria, knowledge gaps, needs and priorities were identified through a study conducted in the three regions of the country, focusing on the universities and research institutes. The findings that majority of the respondents in the Western region have research outputs in soil fertility gives hope for soil amendment and crop productivity in organic farming. The major areas where farmers incurred cost of production are in soil fertility improvement, pest and diseases and weed management. ✓ The major challenge encountered by the practitioners of EOA in the Northern and Eastern region are; labor intensiveness in production, application of organic fertilizers, arising from the bulky nature of the fertilizers and long duration of composting large quantities. The results further revealed that only very low percentages of the farmers are involved in commodity value addition viz: produce processing, packaging, storage, merchandising ✓ The results also revealed wide knowledge gaps in increasing order of: standards and markets> cultural practices> preservation of produce> processing>Organic crop

	<p>protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The results in these areas of study if properly addressed would not only increase farmers' interest but will encourage utilization of EOA practices ✓ A total of 260 researches on organic agriculture documented from 2016 to 2018 were compiled. This implies that databases on the abstract and full paper are available for use to strengthen organic agricultural researches. From the materials reviewed, poultry manure and neem plant were the primary element used for soil amendments and pest control. Efforts should be encouraged to develop accessible products for soil amendments and pesticides using the two materials. ✓ Covers various topics as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Agronomy (Soil science, crop production and management) ii. Plant health (plant pathology, nematology, virology, bacteriology etc.) iii. Genetic and Breeding iv. Molecular genetics v. Physiology vi. Food quality vii. Extension viii. Socio-economics ix. Policy issues x. Organic livestock xi. Organic aquaculture
<p>Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nigeria key curriculum development continued to be pushed for with a recommendation that EOA-I courses should be included in the already existing 400 agricultural courses nationwide ✓ A Revised Organic Agriculture Standard in Nigeria
<p>Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 100 % of the fund received has been disbursed to PIPs with 100% implementation of planned and ongoing activities.
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For creation of EOA awareness, various communication materials covering different topics were produced and strategically distributed country wide. Some key materials produced were as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 1000 copies each of poster on the benefits and Principles of Organic Agriculture (Yoruba, Igbo, Pidgin, Hausa and Ibibio), How to Start Planting Wey no Dey Use Chemical (Ibibio), Gain on top Farming Wey no Dey Use Chemical (Ibibio) ii. 1000 copies each of handbill on How to Start Organic Agriculture (Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo) and How to Start Planting Wey no Dey use Chemical (Pidgin) iii. 1000 copies of brochure on Organic Agriculture and You (Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo)

	<p>and Pidgin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. 600 pieces of 2019 -2020 Farm Diary v. 300 pieces of EOA branded jotters vi. 500 Pieces of EOA branded pen vii. 17 pieces of EOA branded T-Shirts viii. Production of two flags ix. 500 pieces of 2019 calendar <p>Other forms of communication used were press conferences</p>
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	To catalyse synergies and link with other relevant bodies that will help in the promotion of Organic Agriculture, JDPC- Uyo, signed an MOU with the Department of Crop Science, Akwa Ibom State University of Agriculture, Obio Akpa, Oruk Anam.
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ implementation of the activities anchored by the PIPs and other executors ✓ 100 % release of funds leading to 100% activity implementation
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The already existing data base of EOA actors was continuously updated during the implementation period. The database produced in 2015 was updated. The updated directory has nine sections / categories in which actors were grouped. These sections are: Farms, Farmers' group, Market and Outlets, Certification and quality control, input dealers, Training and consultancy, Research, Processors and Media and advocacy. The forty pages directory entails 20 farms, 20 farmers group, 8 market and sales outlets, 3 certification and quality control organizations, 11 input dealers, 4 processors, 8 organizations involved in training and consultancy, 11 research institutes and 7 actors / organizations for media and advocacy. ✓ Nine people were selected and supported to participate in the 2018 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit. The selected participants are: David Adebayo (Marketing officer of Ibadan Go Organic Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Adeyinka Adeniyi (Lanlate, Oyo State), Chief M. O. Salimonu (Ajibode Organic Farmers' Group), Salami Azeez and Olowolafe Sunday (from Ajoro-Ijero and Ifelodun Organic Farmers' Group, Ekiti), Anwuluorah Chinwike M. (Awka, Anambra), Akin Braitwait (Farmville Limited, Lagos) and Saheed Adams (Eweko concept, Lagos). ✓ They exhibited farm produce on behalf of their farm/groups at the 2018 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit which took place from 11th – 13th July 2018 at Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. Some of the produce exhibited include ginger, turmeric, garri (processed cassava), wheat and oil palm. ✓ The exposure is believed to further strengthen their production and understand the

	<p>market potentials of EOA produce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The summit proved to be a good outing for the exhibitors, as they interacted with participants while contacts for future business and collaborations were also established e.g. Abisal Foods producing wheat was able to make more contact to distribute her produce in Lagos. According to the CEO of Abisal Foods, Ms. Saidat Dauda, “I had to request the office to send three more cartoons to meet the demand during this three day summit”.
<p>Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.</p>	<p>Five (4 male and 1 female) strategic stakeholders were supported to attend a Training of Trainers (ToT) that took place at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The participants were drawn from Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Development Agency, Cross River State Agricultural Development Agency and Ikot Epkene Women Food/Cash Crop Multipurpose Cooperative Society.</p> <p>The participants were exposed to principles and practices of organic agriculture, organic crop and livestock production, PGS certification, Standards of organic agriculture, export requirements of organic products and hands-on practical during the field visit.</p> <p>The details of the supported participants are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ime Edet Inyang (Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Development Agency) 2. Gabriel P Nyong (Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Development Agency) 3. Victor Edame (Cross River State Agricultural Development Agency) 4. Dr. Solomon Ekong (Ikot Epkene Women Food/Cash Crop M.S.C) 5. Mercy A. Sunday (Ikot Epkene Women Food/Cash Crop M.S.C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two publications on best practices were documented and published. ✓ The first material had four cases reported in the document. The best practices captured are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improving the yield of <i>Celosia argentea</i> (soko) using system of crop intensification: Approach of the Ajibode group. ii. Poultry Immune and growth boosters: Best practice by pristine farm, Nasarawa iii. Successful eradication of armyworm using innovative pest management at Opefarms iv. Development of simple farm tools (flame burner and Auber) change the level of production of a small-scale farmer
<p>Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This activity was implemented during the 2018 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit. The training took place on the 13th July 2018 at the Banquet Hall of Lagos Airport hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. The training was facilitated by Dr. AyanfeOluwa O. E. and Mr. Gbadamosi R. O. ✓ A total of 72 participants (37 male and 35 female) were trained. Participants from across all sectors in the country including the government, the media, farmer’s organizations, private sectors, civil society organizations, policy research and development institution and researchers from the university and institutes. The meeting was to promote the use of PGS among farmers, producers and processors

	of organic produce in the country.
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A monitoring field inspection was conducted 31st October 2018 to Ogbomoso, where Tecobics farm were visited to ascertain compliance with PGS certification by a team of 5 people. The country coordinator of the EOA project in Nigeria; Dr. O. O. AdeOluwa led the team comprising reps of farmers group, Oyo state Agricultural Development Agency, Ladoké Akintola University of Science and Technology. ✓ It was also used to support the participation Pillar coordinators to the review/rap-up meeting that took place at Kano State Agricultural Development Agency (KNARDA), Hadejia rd., Kawo, Kano State, Nigeria.
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National Platform for Nigeria chapter is in place and continues to grow and spread in other parts of Nigeria.
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A joint meeting of the CLO and PIPs took place at White house hotel Ikeja, Lagos on the 10th July 2018. The meeting gathered all the PIPS, CLO, Strategic members of the National EOA Steering Committee and relevant stakeholders like the President of the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria to discuss challenges and progress of EOA implementation in the country. ✓ This activity supported the participation of Rev Fr. Cletus of Justice Development and Peace Commission and Mrs. Udonyah Emmanuel of Ikot Epkene Women Food/Cash Crop Multipurpose Cooperative Society to participate at the 2018 National Organic Agriculture Business Summit. The summit was held at Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. The concluding part of this activity supported the technical officer of Healthy Food for Consumers Initiative, Miss Toyin Okanlawon to participate at the wrap-up meeting of first phase of EOA Initiative. The meeting was held at the Kano State Agricultural Development Agency (KNARDA), Hadejia rd., Kawo, Kano State on the 18th December 2018.
Output 4.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This activity was used to organize the wrap-up meeting of the first phase of EOA Initiative in Nigeria. The meeting had in attendance 19 people (12 male and 7 female) representing the steering committees, PIPs and CLO. The meeting was chaired by Mr Isah Adamu, chairman EOA National Steering Committee. During the meeting, Organic Fertilizer Producers and Suppliers Association of Nigeria (OFPSAN) issues of financial misappropriation was discussed. At the end of the discussion, the meeting agreed that OFPSAN be suspended as PIP. The PIP in charge of Information and Communication Pillar in southwest (HeFCI) was also approved to be replaced by Farmers Development Union (FADU) since HeFCI was poorly rated in the OCA report. FADU was selected after the implementation unit gave positive feedback on the capability of the organization to lead the

	implementation of the pillar activities in the region.
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BENIN

Implementation in Benin is under the following Pillar Implementing Partners;

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by OBEPAB
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by PASCiB
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by CRASTEDA
- ✓ Pillar Four: supporting and cementing Pillar – Implemented by OBEPAB

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Major achievements under Pillar 1 were ; (1) Assessments to organic livestock systems (diversity, typology, folk perceptions, purposes in locals communities, socio-economic patterns for adoption, breeding species, ethical and cultural) ; (2) a cost benefit analysis of organic and conventional cabbage and tomato products; (3)organic fertilizer for rice production; (4) local knowledge valorization for food spray on cotton farming, (4) 50 extension agents have been trained in pest management , (5) The M&E activity.
2. The major progress/achievements of pillar 2 during the implementation period were: (1) Capitalization workshop for key lessons learned for pillar 2 from the 4 last years ; (2) production of communication materials (T-shirt, hats, EOA newsletter) (3) the training of 15 producer’s leaders on the using of Smartphone and social network to inform and to communicate on EOA; (4) writing and distribution of 300 copies of newsletters to Policy makers, traders, producers, consumers, (5) 15 producers trained of the using of smart phones social network to inform and communicate on EOA in centre region of Benin.
3. The main activities carried out in the 1st Semester 2018 are: i) the updating of the national database of actors in organic farming, ii) Improvement of the connection of the national database to other databases, iii) the collection, synthesis of market information on organic products and their dissemination through the web and the SMS system, iv) creation of an organic products selling point in Parakou and around, v) production of a poster on the main organic value chains in Benin, vi) assessment of the previous training sessions on value chains development organized, vii) assessment of the previous exchange visits, viii) assessment of the training activities on business plans, ix) training groups of farmers on internal control system for organic certification, x) support groups of organic soybean production in PGS, xi) support for the implementation of the third-party certification approach, and xii) Organization of monitoring and evaluation for other EOA promoting organizations.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and	Achievements
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Extension (RTE) pillar	
<p>Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assessments to organic livestock systems (diversity, typology, folk perceptions, purposes in locals' communities, socio-economic patterns for adoption, breeding species, ethical and cultural) This study makes it possible to note that the notion of organic farming is still very little known. Livestock breeder who experiment ecological and organic livestock have not yet been trained in the field. Each one relies on his endogenous knowledge to practice ecological livestock ✓ Establishment of knowledge gaps, needs and priorities by gender during the implementation period target consumers. Assessing the consumers' motivations and willingness to pay organic vegetable product (in order to identify awareness raising strategies) was undertaken and showed that consumers will purchase organic products based on the following aspects chronologically; i. income level, ii) Steadiness/firmness, iii) taste, iv) color, v) lack of damage, and vi) nutritional value. This study continued in 2018 ✓ Validation of EOA research findings during the implementation period targeted A cost benefit analysis of organic and conventional cabbage and tomato products has been done ✓ The effectiveness of the food spray has been tested on organic cotton and 12 facilitators from Farmer Field School and 43 organic cotton producers have been trained on this technology <p>(Annex 47: Benin: Complement report activity 1.1.4_Experimenting ABC Grower and products of Bio phyto on rice)</p>
<p>Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ EOA short courses organized in Abomey-Calavi university and Parakou university now in place. <p>(Annex 48: Benin: Report Activities 1.2.2&1.2.3_Review curricula used during the short courses)</p>
<p>Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Monitoring and evaluation strategy developed, M&E field visits undertaken, and Pillar management meeting organized
<p>Information and Communication Pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>

<p>Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In efforts to increase awareness and knowledge on EOA, worked on documenting all work done under Pillar 2 and its impact during Phase 1 of the project. ✓ Various stakeholders were also sensitized through Radio broadcasts on ecological issues and chemical poisoning and also through creation site web for communication about EOA web site: www.pascib.org. ✓ Various communication materials were produced like 100 EOA t-shirts with awareness messages and 100 hats were produced and distributed. ✓ Pillar 2 continues to produce an EOA newsletter called ‘regard citoyen’ on a quarterly basis. ✓ The newsletter during the implementation period Promoted information and communication about the project and enhanced good visibility. It ensured better sharing and dissemination of information between actors, promoted ownership, understanding and visibility of the actions, progress and achievements of the project
<p>Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On July 2018 at Hotel des Princes Bohicon, 15 producers were trained on the use of smartphones and social networks to inform and communicate on EOA. ✓ This training has improved producers’ access to the market for organic producers through ICT use
<p>Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The main difficulties experienced during the implementation period concerned the relatively short time to ensure the implementation of activities and the budget lines of some activities were too weak to fully realize these activities ✓ Findings on the on the use of ICT were that almost all trained producers use the calendar or agenda of mobile phones to plan an activity. The use of this tool has helped to improve the implementation of the agricultural calendar in time and that Producers use WhatsApp to share market information and soil and pest management information with each other. ✓ Findings also show that not all producers have an android. Those who own have difficulties related to the activation of Internet packages and challenges of recharging the phone due to lack of electricity. ✓ All activities planned by pillar 2 for 2017 were implemented.
<p>Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In efforts to increase numbers of actors using organic market information and data, a database was updated with 85 organic product promoters ✓ The process of linking the national database to the regional databases is still ongoing with the CLO’s webmaster.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ With the already developed and updated market information tools, market information was and is being disseminated quarterly. ✓ Benin partners as well attended the 4th African Organic Conference where they showcased their products and enhanced partnerships and marketing networks (Annex 49: Benin: Activity 3.1.7. African Organic conference workshop)
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Follow up and Documentation of the lessons from the training sessions organized on value chain development with 20 trainees and share insides of the EOA network was undertaken. The assessment showed that the trainees have been applying what they learnt but under low scale due to limited finances.
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Due to the developed skills of various producers on quality assurance, a lot of confidence on maintenance of organic standards has been generated among consumers and private companies. A Contract with one local organic certification facilitator as an impact of the EOA project. (Annex 50: Benin: Activity 3.3.1. Report on the internal control systems)
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Activity implementation was at 100% with report submission done on time.
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The National Platform and Steering committee are in place and operational with sustained numbers of stakeholders interested in the organic sector. ✓ In the year 2018, two meetings were held for organic stakeholders to share experiences in the implementation of 2018 work plan, review and adjust the work plans and budgets. Participants involved the PIP members, NGOs, ecological platform, private sector, ministry of agriculture and environment. The workshops served as avenues for the exchange between pillars on the results obtained under the EOA-I. ✓ The private sector knowledge on EOA-I was also enhance through a workshop held from 4-5 July in which 30 new stakeholders (the private sector people, agro input dealers Farmers organizations, agricultural products processors, micro finance providers, mass media people, and other NGOs people) attended. At the end of the workshop, the private sector was better armed with information on EOA-I. (Annex 51: Benin: Activities 4.1.4 &4.1.5&4.1.6_Workshop report)
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Workshops were used as main avenues for enhancing the capacity of CLO and PIPs to implement the project. The implementing partners through their

(CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	interactions with private sector, other NGOs, CSOs, extensions and other stakeholders where challenges and solutions were discussed enhanced their ability to deliver the project in a more cost-effective way.
Output 4.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	✓ All activities planned for all pillars in 2018 were monitored and 100 % implementation undertaken with annual reports written and submitted.

Key Highlights

- ✓ 1 new EOA products selling points were established
- ✓ Farmers and extension agents have been trained on the use of communication strategies related to use of smart phones and sms platforms.
- ✓ Through the various regional and international trade fairs, the visibility of EOA Benin products was increased especially support to deputy minister of agriculture to attend BIOFACH trade fair in Germany.

SENEGAL

In Senegal, implementation of activities went on uninterrupted at an average implementation percentage of 98% of planned activities for 2017. Partners in charge of activity implementation are as follows:

- ✓ Pillar One: Research, Training and Extension Pillar – Implemented by ENDA PRONAT
- ✓ Pillar Two: Information and Communication Pillar – Implemented by ASPAB
- ✓ Pillar Three: Value Chains and Marketing Pillar - Implemented by AGRECOL
- ✓ Pillar Four: Supporting and Cementing Pillar – Implemented by FENAB

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

UNDER PILLAR ONE (ENDAPRONAT)

- ✓ In Senegal, the year 2018 was marked by the organization of the **2nd edition of the Days of Agroecology** Days organized in February by Enda Pronat in collaboration with the Network of Municipalities and Green Cities of Senegal (REVES), the FENAB and the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD). These days brought together 300 people with the participation of high-level experts. This was the opportunity to share the results of studies on the effects of agroecology in a commune of Senegal were shared. The representative of the Minister of Agriculture also reaffirmed his conviction regarding the relevance of agroecology. These days were also an opportunity to propose recommendations on land governance, including the importance of continuing the participatory process of land reform with a view to securing peasant societies. Regarding agroecology, the recommendations focused on strengthening participatory research between peasants and scientists, the development of vocational training provision, the capitalization of results and, above all, the integration of agroecology into the policy. to support family farms in their agro-ecological transition efforts (access to organic matter, water, agricultural equipment, financing, etc.)

- ✓ These days were followed by the establishment of an **Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO)**. **3AO** was created in April 2018 in Dakar, during a West African multi-stakeholder meeting co-organized by IPES-Food (International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems) and ROPPA (Network of Farmers Organizations and Producers West African Farmers). 41 participants representing 31 organizations had come together to jointly develop a strategy to support, through action, the development of agroecology and sustainable food systems in the subregion. Enda Pronat has been copied to the steering committee of the alliance and participates in the implementation of the research, training and advocacy components of the action plan.
- ✓ Since 2017, Enda Pronat has also invested heavily in the Social and Political Dialogue Group (GDSP) which brings together many civil society organizations and has been heavily involved in the revision of the **National Agricultural Investment and Security Program. food and nutrition (PNIASAN 2018-2022)**. Thanks to the advocacy led by the GDSP with the State, agroecology has been integrated in the strategic orientations of the objective 2 of the PNIASAN, which aims at the increase of the productivity and the agro-silvo-pastoral and halieutic production via diversified, sustainable production systems that can reduce post production losses. This was confirmed during the national validation workshop of PNIASAN held in Dakar on 8 December 2018.
- ✓ At the same time, at the local level, many agroecological initiatives, led by elected officials are taking off, as evidenced by the **REVES**, created in 2016 with the support of Enda Pronat. REVES aims to develop territorial policies based on the foundations of agroecology and sustainable governance of natural resources. It is in this sense that **the municipality of Ndiob (Department of Fatick)** was awarded the prize for the best local agricultural policy awarded by FAO in October 2018. Ndiob's rural development policies are based on a green and resilient vision, based on in an endogenous and inclusive development process that respects the environment and the rights of vulnerable populations. With the support of Enda Pronat and other partners, the municipality has been able to progress towards food self-sufficiency by assisting producers in the implementation of agroecological practices.

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ With already existing wealth of organic information generated through research and field trials, Enda-Pronat organized a 3-day workshop to share research results in AEB with 40 people, including 10 women. 24 structures were represented, including 8 NGOs, 6 POs, 1 company, 2 universities, 5 research institutions, 1 extension structure and the Ministry of Agriculture ✓ More local needs were also identified through organization of the General Assembly of the National Network of Rural Women of Senegal (RNFRS), which served as an opportunity to identify with them their knowledge-building needs to develop their skills. agroecological activities. ✓ Various research studies were also validated by Master of Science students. 5 students were involved in 2018. The 5 students completed their internship from March to July 2018 in different areas of Senegal: 3 are on the development of the

	<p>operating account of organic plots, 1 is on the potentialities of the market and the last one is conducting a study on the results of the RNA (see attached training report)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Endapronat under this pillar also continues to document application of local knowledge to development of EOA. For this activity, they made a video on the initiative of the mayor of Ndiob who wants to make Ndiob a green and resilient municipality. We also plan to make a second video in 2019 on the Beer Sheba project that produces, processes and markets agro-ecological vegetables, meat and moringa.
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The creation of a professional EOA degree in the University of Dakar was a big step towards institutionalization of EOA in the education curriculum. The EOA degree course continues to attract more students. In 2018, 30 more students were enrolled ✓ Enda Pronat organized a meeting with the Higher Institutes of Professional Education to raise awareness about the importance of integrating AEB into their curricula and training modules. The ISEP of Matam invited Pronat to participate in the elaboration of his curricula in July 2018. ✓ The evaluation of the AEB license has not yet been completed. It should be done early in 2019.
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation and reporting went on smoothly without major challenges.
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The gap analysis in information and communication strategies beyond the coverage of the pilot phase was undertaken and a strategy developed ✓ More than 22000 stakeholders and actors in the EAO value chains were sensitized through workshops, media and FENAB's website. 60% adoption of interventions.
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A "House of Knowledge" as support communication infrastructure is created (EOA information and agricultural documents, databases and indigenous and scientific knowledge is available. Other houses of knowledge will be extended and open in FENAB 4 Agroecological zones. In the year 330 people visited the house of knowledge and satisfied. ✓ At least 10 representatives of CBOs in project areas trained on how to use ICT tools to promote EOA at the end of each year. At least 20 extension workers trained on how to access and disseminate information on EOA each year.
Output 2.3: Effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation and reporting went on smoothly without major challenges.

implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The database of EOA actors was provided to FiBL and IFOAM where 50 actors were updated. IFOAM is the organic network of national organic movements and sharing the data with them is a good avenue of information dissemination. ✓ 3 selling networks of EAO products were supported through capacity building of at least 5 of their members (managers and sale's persons) ✓ 15 members of 3 existing distributor networks were trained on electronic trading communication. <i>Les supports seront définis lors des formations, internet, téléphones (appel, message etc).</i>
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mapping of 3 analyzed value chains (Onion, millet et Mangoe) was undertaken and documented in 2018 ✓ 10 Master Trainers were trained on value chain development ✓ 75 members of FO (leaders, local trainers, animators, etc.) are trained on value chain development, the actors of 4 value chains (32 persons) were brought in exchange visit ✓ actors of 4 value chains (32 persons) were brought on exchange visit one value chain is awarded, and its experience capitalized
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10 officers after the ICS and PGS training were able to play the role of inspector of certification while as well 25 members of actors from 3 value chains (with at least 5 concerned FO) were trained on Partipatory Guarantee System and certification
Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation and reporting went on smoothly without major challenges.
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All 4 FENAB agroecological zones were visited and more than 80.000 stakeholders were sensitized and informed about the value of EAO in development.

Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ From the 2016 policy gap analysis on the current policies as related to EOA development, important documents were produced and brought to the government and local authorities. ✓ 3 important documents were produced: a) strategic and prospective agricultural policy in favor of EOA; b) Code of conduct for the National Platform on Agroecology; c) Project of «Decret» to create the National Platform for Agroecology promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Senegal. We are waiting of the Ministry's reaction.
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FENAB Websites : www.fenab.org and www.aeb-senegal.org are always updated.

MALI

In Mali, implementation in 2018 started off well and as planned with the following Pillar Implementing Partners taking lead:

- 1) Association des Organisations Professionnelles Paysannes (AOPP) as the CLO
- 2) Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER) to take lead in Pillar 1 implementation
- 3) Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de recherche Appliquée to take lead in Pillar 2 implementation
- 4) REMATRAC-BIO to take lead in Pillar 3 implementation

Key Highlights.

- ✓ The EOA database on organic and ecological agriculture is also available.
- ✓ Access to market information and data on EOA products, capacity building in the development of organic value chains, capacity building to support the quality of collective marketing of organic products national, regional or export markets are the results of activists and strategies to ensure the institutionalization

Pillar Activity Implementation highlights

Research, Training and Extension (RTE) pillar	Achievements
Output 1.1. Increased knowledge of research into use, needs and priorities about Organic practices in the entire value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In depth assessment to document available EOA research has been ongoing having commenced in 2017. Good progress was realized in 2018 where various actors were involved from the Fenab network in Bougouni, Yanfolila, Kolondieba, Yorosso, Bla and Kati; -OHVN through the Emile Noël Mali Foundation working on

available	<p>Organic Sesame. Market linkages were as well established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Opportunities in terms of gaps in local knowledge of EOA practices were also established and showed various sectors where the knowledge can be enhanced as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Existence of market ii. Training on organic farming techniques iii. Existence of partners for the support-advice by the organic advisers and the service of agriculture (IER, AMEDD, FENABE, Project " feere diyara ") iv. Easy access to markets v. High efficiency vi. More advantageous than conventional
Output 1.2. Capacity for Organization and implementation of EOA practices developed and strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Development of EOA-I curriculum and short courses commenced in 2018. Two meetings were organized to discuss with teachers of higher and secondary education on the enrollment of EOA in school curricula. The meeting agreed to push for an MSc in EOA. A draft curriculum at MSc level has been developed awaiting approvals for tis roll out.
Output 1.3: Implementation of the pillar activities effectively enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Activities were implemented at the successfully
Information and Communication Pillar	Achievements
Output 2.1. Awareness and knowledge of the value and practices of EOA is increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Due to escalated awareness on EOA-I across Mali, behavior change and commitment to EOA-I practices was realized in 2018. ✓ Advertisements and information creation were done through print and media ✓ There is now wide scale existence of organic produce and products in the local markets in Mali
Output 2.2: Extension and communication support systems are strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased number of EOA student trainees and applicants (producers, communicators, visitors from agro-bio-ecological parcels of IPR and other actors) with useful information and guidance in EOA was realized. This is a good step towards dissemination of EOA information acquired through the groups already with the knowledge ✓ Applications from students requesting to be trained on EOA continued to be realized during the implementation period during to enhanced awareness

	through newspapers and radio stations on EOA practices and their benefits
Output 2.3: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	
Value Chain and Market Development (VCMD) pillar	Achievements
Output 3.1: Access to market information and capacity of value chain actors to access data on organic products increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10 Market gardeners in Kayes Region 10 were established ✓ -30 women from AOPP and IER were keen on receiving training on organic farming under local greenhouse (Request for partnership for off-season crops) ✓ Partnerships were also established with the Organic Pesticide Research and Production Institute in Mali, and the Danish Cooperation for the financing of AEB to further support market catalyzation of organic produce. ✓ Market data and collection tools were developed and are now available for use. ✓ Strengthening partnership links with organic market gardeners of Satinebougou, was undertaken where 62 contacts were established between market gardeners and 150 market stands of partners and stakeholders of EOA visited ✓ Various Communication on EOA was done through production of 4500 flyers that were distributed to visitors especially consumers visiting the markets to purchase produce ✓ The farmers mad returns of approximately One million seven hundred and fifty thousand CFA francs of turnover for the sale of organic vegetables
Output 3.2: Capacity in value chains development for organic products is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 25 women from AFSM Bio Agricole were converted to take up organic farming and are committed to produce market garden produce, organic fruits, poultry and cereals to meet the challenges of feeding quality products and safeguarding the environment ✓ The producers of AFSM-Bio agricultural were linked to supply organic produce to the organic market of Missira
Output 3.3: Capacity in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets is enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Capacity in in quality assurance for supporting collective marketing of organic products to the domestic, regional or export markets improved in 2018 where the managers of the self-monitoring groups of market gardening cooperatives are now able to use the support and tools for the operationalization of the PGS successfully and therefore improving the quality of organic products in the market. ✓ PGS is now functional in Mali with an organic local label being now in use. The use of an organic label as well as raises the confidence of local and external consumers.

Output 3.4: Effective implementation of the pillar activities enhanced	✓ 100% implementation achieved.
Supporting and Cementing Pillar	Achievements
Output 4.1: Fully functional National Platforms with Steering Committees established and strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mali has over the years of project implementation since 2014 attracted a good percentage of committed organic stakeholders who have formed a strong national platform as well as a strong and operations National Steering Committee. ✓ Due to the frequency of interactions of the committee members, a mutual understanding of the implementing actors has been enhanced. The often-lengthy debates and arguments for the cause have greatly diminished.
Output 4.2 Capacities of Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) to perform their functions strengthened.	✓ Mali now has an operational EOA Strategic plan

SECTION III

3 CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CHALLENGES

Various challenges continued to be experienced during the implementation period. The challenges cut across the various structures of EOA-I and have been summarized from country level to continental level in that order. However, BvAT wants to appreciate the support of majority of its implementing partners, support partners and donors in the bid to mitigate the challenges for benefits of EOA-I. The various oversight structures of EOA-I have been doing a commendable job of providing direction and decision making across the structures that have benefited the initiative. The National Steering Committee (NSC) of Ethiopia stood out in taking lead in the recruitment of an organization to take lead in the implementation of Information and Communication Pillar (P2). The NSC came together and developed the terms of reference, the scoring sheets and took part in the interviews and selection process. Their actions mitigated the challenge the project experienced when PANOS Ethiopia in charge of Pillar 2 collapsed and closed their offices in 2016.

The Regional Steering Committees of west and east Africa have also played crucial roles in steering the EOA-I agenda in the right direction. The west Africa cluster has been instrumental in bringing on board ECOWAS that has designated their officer Mr. Ernest Aubee to join the steering work of the regional cluster. Mr. Aubee has been chairing the west Africa RSC meetings for 2 years now. His engagement is very crucial in mainstreaming EOA-I in regional policies and plans. The involvement of regional economic blocks like ECOWAS and EAC is very crucial especially linking the AUC to the national governments in the implementing countries.

The east African cluster has been instrumental in fundraising by bringing on board a key donor SSNC who currently is supporting the east Africa secretariat to operationalize the offices and implement regional activities. This is a very strategic move to bring in more resources to the EOA-I initiative whose fundraising gap still stands at 60%.

The Continental Steering Committee (CSC) chaired by AUC supported the project in making strategic decisions key among them being the roll out of the partners organizational capacity assessment exercise a decision made to address the various organizational challenges that implementing partners have been facing since inception. The CSC initiated and rolled out the external evaluation as well as the base line study. The 2 studies running from 2018 have been key to generating data needed to track progress of EOA-I implementation. The roll out of various strategies especially the new grants management system, a robust M&E system and review of the various EOA-I structures has been steered and supported by the CSC.

With this support, majority of challenges experienced before having been minimized. During the reporting period the following were challenges experienced:

NATIONAL LEVEL CHALLENGES

1. Partners inability to fully utilize resources availed at their disposal at the required burn rate of 75%. Currently the burn rate has been placed at 68%. BvAT at its level has brought in mechanisms to mitigate this challenge by ensuring the burn rate of 75% is attained before the next funds are released. Training partners on activity documentation and constant follow ups through reminders on the need to submit reports on time has helped mitigate this challenge.
2. Lack of adequate funds to support key operations and activities of various institutional structures like NSC, RSC & CSC meetings, support to secretariat, Monitoring support at Country Level, and partners capacity building trainings as well as decentralized Partner project Audits. Continuous fundraising has been the core of the various secretariats to bring on board more funds. Due to these efforts the eastern Africa secretariat received funds in 2018 to operationalize its regional activities. ECOWAS has also earmarked funds to roll out support to 15 west Africa countries.
3. Withdrawal of support from donors to key EOA partners like NOGAMU. SDC, SSNC and Sida were key donors who during 2018 withdrew their support to Nogamu. BvAT is working closely with Nogamu to redeem its image. So far Nogamu has a new board and management in place.
4. Some partners currently do not undertake Organizational annual audits. This limits the ability to ascertain their financial management credibility. BvAT has brought in measures to ensure it only engages organizations that take annual audits as a necessary exercise. Organizations not undertaking annual audits will be left out in Phase 2 of EOA-I implementation.
5. Closure of partner universities has greatly affected project implementation in 2018 under pillar 1 especially in Kenya, Mali and Uganda.

REGIONAL LEVEL CHALLENGES

1. Support of and commitment to EOA-I by RECs (EAC & ECOWAS) has not fully been realized. The engagements are still at their nascent stages.
2. The role of Afronet in supporting struggling NOAMs has not been fully utilized. This has been coupled by lack of funds and limited staff to operationalize Afronets' strategic plan. To mitigate this challenge, Afronet developed a Strategic Plan as well as did its elections of new office bearers during the 4th African Organic Conference held in Senegal 2018.

CONTINENTAL LEVEL CHALLENGES

1. The entry of NEPAD in reporting on progress of implementation EOA-I agenda as an AUC decision has not been actualized so far. One of the key steps taken forward is enhanced awareness creation on EOA at AUC events through distribution of EOA materials, sharing of progress reports and attending side events. We hope these strategies will bear fruits in the future.
2. Existing misconception that systems labelled EOA cannot feed Africa continues to be a global challenge in the organic sector. EOA-I continues to generate more research under Research Training and Extension pillar to provide evidence that EOA-I practices can feed the world.
3. The sharing of available data on EOA continues to be a challenge. Mechanisms of packaging EOA information and disseminating to various stakeholders have not been utilized effectively in the past. The initiative continues to build the capacity of its pillar implementing partners to take charge of documentation and sharing
4. Penetration to organic export markets continues to be a big challenge to farmers in the implementing EOA-I countries due to lack of capacity to meet the high set organic farming standards for export markets. This coupled with expensive certification process poses a big challenge. Options of having Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) being recognized as an international certification process are being explored. Other efforts include certifying farmers for exports in groups and encouraging larger numbers to cut down on costs

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Effective, efficient and strong governance and management systems, are critical requirements for successful scale up of EOA and sustainability
2. Beyond the resources, the sustainability of the uptake of EOA practices and technologies and changes at farmer level, will only be sustained by a well thought-out market system approach
3. Organic famers face serious competition from in-organic farmers and also proponents of chemical inputs
4. The “game changer” for EOA success and stability at country level is a functional CLO
5. Sourcing and harmonization of streams of funding, coordination, monitoring and evaluation is still key for impact creation and scale-up

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Creating Opportunities for Scaling Up through Production Market Systems
2. Focusing on a Value Chain Development Approach
3. Develop and Employ a Robust Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
4. Motivating Funding Support Arrangements
5. Employing Deliberate Efforts to Involve Women, Youth & Vulnerable Groups

SECTION IV

4. FINANCIAL STATUS IN THE YEAR 2018

PROJECT TITLE:	EOA- SDC
Project Number SDC:	81,019,446
Project Number Partner Organisation:	B4238G
Project Period:	1st January 2014 - 31st December 2018
Current Reporting Period:	1st January 2018 - 31st December 2018
Reporting Currency:	USD
Donor:	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	Jan 2018 - Oct 2018	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018
INCOME			
Balance B/F	751,133	751,133	-
Income for the Period	1,405,858	1,141,212	264,646
Interest Income	-	907	(907)
Refund from Makerere-Uganda	-	10,483	(10,483)
TOTAL INCOME	2,156,991	1,903,736	253,255
1. Personnel	126,717	111,237	15,481
Subtotal	126,717	111,237	15,481
2. Travels			
2.1 International Travel	30,336	31,540	(1,204)
2.2 Local Travel	3,000	1,869	1,131
Subtotal	33,336	33,409	(73)
3. General Investment/Equipment			
3.1 Office Equipments			

	9,667	9,655	11
Subtotal	9,667	9,655	11
4. Country Lead Organization (Disbursement & 2017 Carry Over)			
4.1 Kenya KOAN	172,076	118,560	53,516
4.2 Uganda- NOGAMU	42,305	24,248	18,057
4.3 Tanzania- TOAM	162,136	126,920	35,217
4.4 Ethiopia- ISD	247,088	150,530	96,558
4.5 Nigeria- NOAN	135,485	124,654	10,831
4.6 Senegal- FENAB	158,897	83,344	75,552
4.7 Benin- OBEPAB	128,361	93,130	35,231
4.8 Mali-AOPP	153,108	141,000	12,108
4.9 Mali Funds (2014-2015)	102,532	-	102,532
4.10 Uganda Funds not Disbursed	100,309	-	100,309
Subtotal	1,402,298	862,385	539,913
5.Support and Cementing			
5.1 Central Steering Committee	35,291	31,762	3,529
5.2 Afronet	24,096	17,839	6,257
5.3 Executing Agency Support Function	54,135	55,052	(917)
5.4 EOA Regional Cluster-West	88,780	77,218	11,562
5.5 EOA Regional Cluster-East	68,220	64,606	3,614
5.6 EOA Secretariat	117,341	92,283	25,058
5.7 EOA Evaluation	180,000	210,537	(30,537)
Subtotal	567,862	549,297	18,565

Total Direct Cost 1	2,139,881	1,565,983	573,897
6. Other Costs			
6.1 Auditing Cost	15,860	15,860	-
Subtotal	15,860	15,860	-
Total Direct Cost 2	2,155,741	1,581,843	573,897
7. Overheads			
7.1 Institution Cost (BvAT)	1,251	1,251	-
Subtotal	1,251	1,251	-
Total Including Overheads	2,156,991	1,583,094	573,897
	-		
Excess of Expenditure over Income		320,642	

Signature Project Manager:

Signature: BvAT Director

Stamp Partner
Organization

Date: 25th June 2019

Date: 25th
June 2019

- The audited report has been attached as Annex 52