



*“Sustainably
creating impact
for all, for a food
secure Africa”*



Biovision
Africa
Trust

About Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)

Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is a not-for-profit organization that was established in 2009 by the Swiss based Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development. The organization has developed into a dynamic NGO drawing on its experience and working with like-minded organizations to implement agriculture development projects aimed at improving livelihoods of farmers and rural communities in Kenya and throughout Sub-Sahara Africa. BvAT's holistic approach in Ecological Organic Agriculture and Agroecology contributes towards more sustainable farming, a healthier diet for citizens, reducing the pace of climate change and minimizing its negative impact. The organization works with smallholder farmers with particular focus to women and youth and other value chain actors such as processors, traders, consumers, farmers organizations, and government institutions in Africa. Additionally, the organization is passionate about inclusion and diversity and commits to creating impact in communities of women, men, and youth within boundaries of sustainability.

Vision 	Mission 	Overall goal 
A food secure African continent with healthy people living in a healthy environment.	To alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of rural communities in Africa through disseminating relevant information and building the capacity of farmers and partners for the ecological transformation of African agriculture and food systems.	To sustainably improve the health and prosperity of people in Africa while conserving the environment with agroecology and ecological organic agriculture as a basis for all life.

Core values



Environmental stewardship



Accountability and transparency



Gender inclusivity and Non-discrimination



Efficiency and effectiveness



Integrity

Strategic Objectives

BvAT has five strategic choices that will contribute to the attainment of its overall goal and objectives.

1 Facilitating adoption of agroecology (AE)/ ecological organic agriculture (EOA) practices among smallholder farmers, with a special focus on women and youth.

2 Supporting EOA value chain diversification and development for markets and trade at local, domestic, and international levels.

3 Supporting policy and institutional framework conditions for AE/EOA sector development in Africa through influencing and enacting ecological agriculture policies/ strategies.

4 Strengthening BvAT's operational and financial sustainability with a functional and sustainable business model that is based on realistic market assumptions.

5 Supporting innovations and socioeconomic research to provide useful and practical solutions to special issues and challenges facing smallholder farmers especially women and youth.

Our Development Programmes

BvAT's current work is implemented through the three programmes namely, the Farmer Communication Programme (FCP), the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Africa and the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KCOA – KHEA).

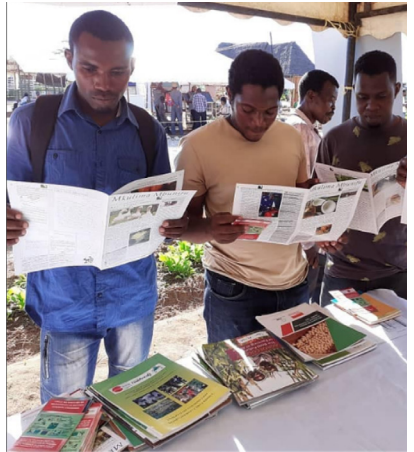
The Biovision Farmer Communication Programme (FCP)

The primary aim of FCP is to bridge the knowledge and skills gap in application of EOA among the smallholder farmers in East Africa region through the five projects:

1. **The Organic Farmer Magazine, a monthly publication in English circulated in Kenya and with online version**
2. **Mkulima Mbunifu, a monthly Kiswahili publication circulated in Tanzania and with online version.**
3. **Infonet Biovision, an open web-based knowledge repository**
4. **The Organic Farmer Radio, produces weekly national radio programmes (Kilimo Hai) complemented by regional vernacular and community FM radio stations.**
5. **Outreach, is a face-to-face engagement of farmers whose activities are supported from Outreach farmer resource centres currently located in 11 counties.**

Lately, the FCP communication pathways have complemented well with digitized information and dissemination in the form of sending bulk SMS, through a dedicated SMS short code (70799). A feedback mechanism, aided by Tusemezane (online application with SMS and voice capability that records farmers feedback on FCP communication interventions).





Patrick Muli, reads TOF Magazine alongside his wife



FCP Team pays a courtesy call to the Chief Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Machakos County, Ms. Damaris Mativo



Dr. David Amudavi BvAT ED after signing partnership agreement with Standard Group Limited. Looking on is Prof. Onesmo K. ole-MoiYoi BvAT Board Trustee and Mr. Tom Japani Head of Radio Maisha

BvAT Executive Director, Dr David Amudavi and ARSO Secretary General, Dr Hermogene Nsengimana during a recent BvAT/ ARSO MOU signing ceremony



The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Africa

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) is an outcome of deliberations and support to implement the African Union Heads of State and Governments Decision on Organic Farming adopted during the Eighteenth Ordinary Session, 24-28 January 2011(EX.CL/Dec.621 (XVIII)). The initiative started in 2011 with support from the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and later the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The initiative has been implemented in Africa since 2012 first on a pilot basis in six countries, namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Zambia. The rollout has risen to nine (9) countries – five in Eastern Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) and four in West Africa (Mali, Nigeria, Benin, and Senegal), with an overall goal of mainstreaming ecological agriculture into national agricultural production systems, plans and policies.



EOA-I BvAT staff of Dr. Amudavi the EOA Coordinator and Ms. Venancia Wambua the EOA-I Project Manager in a monitoring mission with ROAM in Rwanda



Mr Alex Mutungi the Secretariat Coordinator in a field mission in Ethiopia. With him are ISD staff in charge of EOA Coordination in Ethiopia



EOA Kenyan farmer displaying her healthy produce grown organically



EOA group of farmers preparing a compost manure



EOA-I Eastern Africa Regional Steering Committee (RSC) members attending an RSC meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.

EOA-I achievements in numbers



27 EOA Knowledge products (success stories, applying practices) disseminated through various pathways



1,720,255 Stakeholders reached with AE/EOA informational material



100,000 Farmers trained on AE/EOA principles



32 Percent of farmers meeting the organic market standards



9 Countries establishes networks with partners in Africa and globally



272 Extension officers, Training of Trainers trained on benefits of EOA practices and standards



12,453 EOA Farmers participating in markets at different levels (domestic and export)



21,000 Farmers linked to organic markets



300 Stakeholders were engaged in platform meetings, workshops, and conferences across the different EOA-I structures to discuss successes, best practices and challenges of the EOA-I



35,519 Value Chain actors farmers, input suppliers, processors, transporters etc, trained on the various EOA practices and standards



1 National Policy Launched: National Organic Agriculture Policy for Uganda (NOAP) officially launched

Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA)

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project is one of the five Hubs of the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA) project. It is part of the One World – No Hunger initiative by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through its executing agency GIZ, to support a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Eastern, Western, Northern, Central and Southern Africa. Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa with co-hosting arrangement with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda. The KCOA Project aligns with the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I), an African Union-led continental undertaking with the oversight of the African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Agriculture Rural Development, Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (DARBE).

The overall objective of the KCOA project is to introduce knowledge hubs successfully as an innovative strategy for promoting organic agriculture with actors in the regions of Western, Eastern, Northern, Central and Southern Africa. **The overall goal of the KHEA project is to ensure that Ecological Organic Agriculture is integrated into the various countries' agricultural systems.**

The Continental Digital Knowledge Platform is part of the KCOA project coordinated by the GIZ as a major component of the initiative. This online resource will provide excellent learning materials and resources for the project. The KCOA Project in Eastern Africa is currently being implemented in 5 countries of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania and Madagascar. To know more about the project, please visit this link: <https://biovisionafricatrust.org/kcoa-project/>



KHEA Multipliers represent during the exhibitions at the 1st National Agricultural Education Show in Uganda - showcasing organic fertilizers and pesticides



KHEA Project Manager - Francis Nsanga makes a presentation during a symposium at the Jinja Show Grounds in Uganda



KHEA trained farmers in Rwanda exhibit some of the organic pineapples




KHEA multipliers in Uganda during a practical session at ST Jude Family Projects an associate partner of PELUM Uganda



Farmers in Machakos county enjoying the services of Biovision Africa Trust field officers.

BvAT's Development Programmes & Achievements 2010-2021


Farmer Communication Programme (FCP) in Kenya & Tanzania



- 7,000,000+** Magazines distributed to farmers and other users
- 3 million+** Awareness on AE/EOA created through radio broadcasts
- 50,000+** Farmers trained on AE/EOA
- 55,000+** Farmers who have adopted and are practising AE/EOA
- 2-5 countries** Growing partnerships around truly sustainable agriculture in East Africa
- 330,000+** Users reached annually with ifonet data base content.

Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) for Africa


Covering two regions in Africa since 2012



- 500,000+** Stakeholders reached with AE/EOA information materials
- 100,000** Farmers trained on AE/EOA principles and practices
- 170,000** Farmers supported to participate in trade fairs, conferences
- 21,000** Farmers linked to organic markets
- 500+** Policy makers reached and engaged on AE/EOA policies
- 9 Countries** Established networks with partners in 9 African countries and globally.

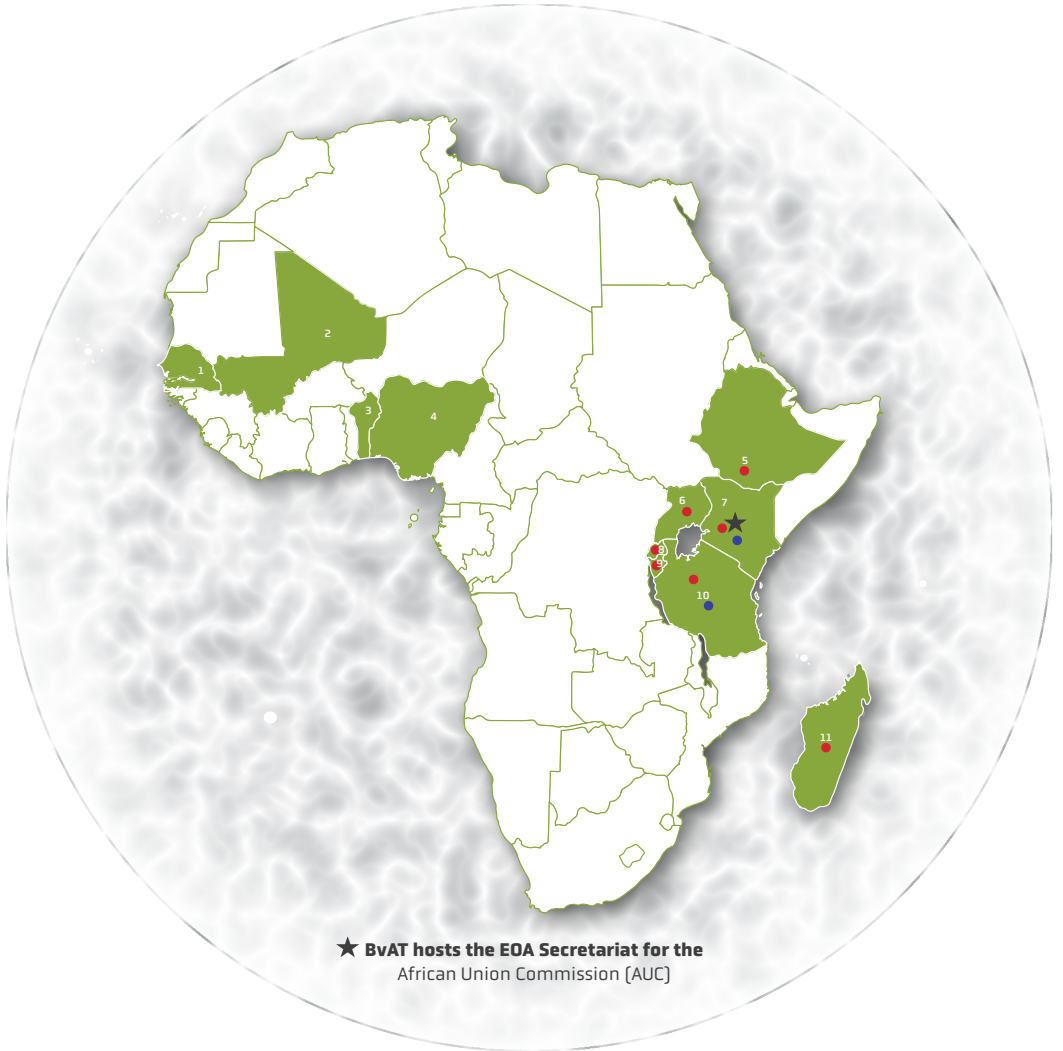
Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA)

project with BvAT Coordinating Eastern Africa with PELUM Uganda as a co-host. Other regions the KCOA covers are Western, Southern, Central and Northern Africa since 2019



- 1422** AE/EOA multiplier practitioners from Knowledge Hub in East Africa trained
- 250 Videos** translated into 7 different languages in four countries
- 100+** Knowledge products on AE/EOA collected and are being prepared for upload on the digital knowledge platform
- 2,000** Farmers trained on AE/EOA principles and practices
- 250** farmers being supported on PGS certification.

Where we work



EOA Initiative
Implementing
Countries

KCOA
Implementing
Countries

FCP Implementing
Countries (Kenya &
Tanzania)

Strategic Partners and Donors

1. Biovision Foundation
2. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
3. Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)
4. Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

International Development Partners

1. IFOAM Organics International
2. The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)
3. International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)
4. Access Agriculture


Strategic Regional Partners

1. Governments line ministries – Agriculture and Livestock
2. Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO)
3. Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)
4. Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
5. Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)
6. Farm Radio International
7. National and Regional Media (KBC, Standard Media, etc.)
8. African Organisation for Standardisation - ARSO

Main Continental EOA/KCOA Implementing Partners

1. **Senegal** - Conseil national de Concertation et de Cooperation des Ruraux (CNCR) - EOA
2. **Mali** - Fédération Nationale des Producteurs de l'Agriculture Biologique et Equitable du Mali (FENABE) - EOA
3. **Benin** - Béninoise pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique (OBEPAB) - EOA
4. **Nigeria** - Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria (NOAN) - EOA
5. **Ethiopia** - Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) - EOA
6. **Uganda** - PELUM Uganda - EOA/KCOA
7. **Kenya** - Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)-EOA/KCOA, PELUM Kenya - EOA/KCOA
8. **Rwanda** - Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) - EOA/ KCOA
9. **Burundi** - Burundi Organic Agriculture Movement (BOAM) - KCOA
10. **Tanzania** - Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) - EOA/KCOA
11. **Madagascar** - SYMABIO 7 GSDM Partnership

Contact us

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