



## **THE SALY 2018 DECLARATION ON ECOLOGICAL AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STRATEGIES FOR VIABLE CONTINENTAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063**

We, the 160 participants, including farmers, scientists, policy makers and organic business entrepreneurs from more than 30 countries attending the 4th African Organic Conference held in Saly, Senegal from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, having deliberated on the theme "*Ecological and Organic Agriculture Strategies for Viable Continental and National Development in the Context of the African Union's Agenda 2063*",

**AGREE** that Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) has a significant role to play in fulfilling the **African Union's Agenda 2063** and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), continental integration, mainstreaming of EOA into Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), preserving and systemizing traditional knowledge, as well as providing scientific based evidences for enabling policies to address poverty, climate change impact, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, market access constraints, employment generation and gender inequalities for a prosperous Africa.

### **APPRECIATING**

- The African Union Commission (AUC) for providing leadership in advancing the implementation of the decision of the African Heads of State and Government on Organic Farming (Doc. EX.CL/631 (XVIII)). This is evident in the work of the Continental EOA Steering Committee and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission's initiative in developing EOA in West Africa.
- The progress made by Africa Organic Network (AfrONet) in fostering partnership and knowledge sharing among EOA stakeholders.
- The initiatives of international partners such as SWISS AID, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organization (INOFO), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), IFOAM Organics International, International Society for Organic Agriculture Research (ISO FAR), *Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau* / Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and *Recherche agronomique pour le développement* (CIRAD).

### **RECALLING**

- The African Union Agenda 2063 and its implication for agricultural development in Africa
- The commitment of African governments in support of the African Union Agenda 2063.

### **WE RECOMMEND ALL MEMBER STATES TO**

- Increase efforts on generating and disseminating information for advancing ecological organic agriculture and making a strong business case for EOA.
- Bridge communication gaps between scientists and farmers, to ensure the usefulness of research results.
- Provide solutions that could facilitate engagement of financial institutions in improving access to financing organic agriculture business.
- Include ecological organic agriculture in national investment programmes.
- Join in scaling out EOA to all countries of Africa, share progress and lessons learnt.
- Better integrate inputs from farmer organizations and improve farmers - civil society's involvement in EOA related initiatives,

### **WE URGE**

- African Governments, continental and regional institutions, development partners, donors and private sector investors to increase support for the development of EOA in Africa.
- All African stakeholders and development partners to engage in and support the EOA initiative in Africa, as well as the development of the Network for Organic Agriculture Researchers in Africa (NOARA) to engage relevant research stakeholders.
- National, regional and international organizations committed to achieving the SDGs to actively support the development of EOA in Africa.
- Ecological organic agriculture actors at the country level to liaise and work with the CAADP Country teams to mainstream EOA in national policies and CAADP investment plans.

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING EOA SUPPORTERS:**

- Dr. Tewolode Berhan Gebre Egziabher from Ethiopia.
- Dr. Janet Edeme, African Union Commission
- Ms. Sue Burnell Edwards (posthumous) from Ethiopia

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**WE AGREE** to meet in Morocco or alternatively Rwanda in 2021 for the 5<sup>th</sup> African Organic Conference.