

# **ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA**

*By*  
**Mr. Sylvère MUDENDELI**  
**Chairman of Rwanda Organic**  
**Agriculture Movement (ROAM)**  
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## **Outlines**

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2. Policy update
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4. Initial ideas on the way forward
5. Possible technical cooperation support needed to move ahead

### **a) Background**

- The organic farming started in Rwanda in 2001 by Government institutions, different NGOs and projects.
- They particularly focused in training on production techniques using local farming tools. At the same time, workers from Government, NGOs and projects attended trainings and workshops abroad.
- In 2007, ROAM was fully established as National umbrella for coordinating and promoting Organic farming in Rwanda.

### **a) Background (cont.)**

- In October 2007, an international conference was held at Serena Hotel Kigali where different participants shared ideas, views and experiences on organic agriculture in East Africa and worldwide.
- After this conference, many initiatives in fact began due to the importance of organic agriculture.

### **b) Production**

- Organic farming enhanced better production of banana;
- Availability of organic inputs: 3 companies have started to sell organic fertilizers imported from UK, China and Canada;
- The trend of productivity increase is a result of a combination of irrigation systems, organic inputs, improved seeds and land use consolidation.
- Currently 20,000 producers are grouped in 20 cooperatives and 10 companies

### **c) Main products**

- Apple banana
- Pineapple
- Coffee
- Tea
- Honey
- Gooseberry
- Avocado
- Passion fruit
- Mountain Papaya
- Tree tomato
- Chillies
- Essential oil (Geranium, Lippia, Pacouri, Citronella, Pyrethrum, ...)

### d) Prices

- Currently in Rwanda there are no formal organic shops
- The prices are the same as those of conventional products,
- However ROAM is about to start an organic shop in Kigali city, the capital of Rwanda in 2011;
- ROAM agreed with leading super markets (such as **Nakumatt** and **Simba**) in Rwanda to include shelves for organic products of Rwanda;
- Rwandan government establish a market information system called (eSOKO) which gives information of markets prices in whole country.

### e) Domestic sales

- Market data information – e-Soko

Crop	Price in farm	Price in market
	Price/kg/trw	Price/kg/trw
Banana	180-250	300-400
Avocado	300-400	500-700
Pineapple	50-100	300-400
Passion fruit	300-600	800-1000
Tree tomato	300-400	800-1000

- There is no difference between convention and organic products on the local market apart from the place of the market (e.g: in supermarket or other local markets)
- Same initiatives to establish domestic market : Rwanda flora (Vegetables), Floris (fruits & vegetables), Shekina (dried fruits, cassava leaves), MIG sa (honey), SORWATHE (tea), Urwibutso (juice, chilies) and Ikirezi (essential oils).

### f) Export

- Rwanda has established Trade Policy & Strategies (seven core principles) and Industry Policy .
- Rwanda government built necessary infrastructures & facilities like cold room at the Airport, Rwanda air cargo, new air companies Rwanda-Europe (Direct flights) e.g KLM
- Current exports are mainly apple bananas, dried fruits and Geranium (to Europe and South Africa market on marginal quantities) .
- We are assessing strategies to enter to new regional market with limited market requirements (Kinshasa & Brazaville)
- Transport costs and quality control are major constraints.
- There are established business linkages between exporters from Rwanda and buyers from Europe, Asia and America.

### g) Certification

- 20 cooperatives & 5 companies are in the process for organic certification (Horticulture, tea and coffee)
- Government institutions, NGO & ROAM work to train inspectors (e.g. 6 inspectors in Rhoda and 1inspector in POSADA Ltd.);
- Partners supporting organic certification in Rwanda like BTC, ADF, PPPMER II, RDB.
- Some companies are able to pay the certification costs themselves. (e.g. SORWATHE -Tea factories)

### h) EA mark

- E.A mark is needed, but there is lack of funding to implement it.

### i) Opportunities & challenges

Opportunities	Challengers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Government support</li> <li>•Organic agricultural inputs company</li> <li>•Establishment of ROAM</li> <li>•Large number of farmers are being trained in OA</li> <li>•National Organic action plan exist</li> <li>•Existing training institution (Gako training centre, Garden for health, Rwanda flora, POSADA, ROAM, government institutions,</li> <li>•Research on organic coffee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Highly cost of certification</li> <li>•No specific program to support organic agriculture sector</li> <li>•Organic policy is not well defined</li> <li>•Seeds</li> <li>•Local organic certification bodies not established</li> <li>•Not enough knowledge to farmers and processors</li> </ul>

## 2) Policy

ROAM is in talks with Rwanda Government on establishing National Organic Policy; surely we will get the policy ready by the end of 2011.

## 3) Impact of CBTF & partners

- The CBTF support the 1<sup>st</sup> National Organic Conference held in Kigali (October 2007); this conference made strong awareness and spread information about organic agriculture to stakeholders, policy makers, researchers and extension workers ...
- CBTF supported also the development of Rwanda National Organic Action Plan;
- CBTF supported organic Rwanda representatives to participate in regional/international events (conferences, Exhibitions ...)

## 4) The way forward

- Developing the Organic Agriculture policy
- Implementing the National Organic Action Plan
- Strengthen the actions concerning certification of organic farms and factories.
- Boost organic research and extension;
- Establishing local organic certification bodies

## 5) Possible technical cooperation support need to move ahead

- To strengthen activities of ROAM so as to sustain sustainability.
- To train the farmers so that their technical knowledge about organic farming increase;
- Capacity building for the future trainers in the field of organic farming systems;
- To provide financial support for the both farmers and processors in the field so as to get enough capital.

## 5) Possible technical cooperation support need to move ahead

(cont)

- To help setting up local bodie(s) certification.
- To set up an appropriate program.
- To help implementation of E.A mark
- To strengthen marketing system
- To develop the Organic Agriculture policy
- Implementing the National Organic Action Plan

**Thank you!**

**Murakoze!**

**Asante sana!**