Cooperation between public and private sectors; Experiences from the Organic Agriculture Sector in Uganda

> By: Musa. K. Muwanga

Chief Executive Officer, National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU)

Summary

- Background
- Current Status of the organic sector in Uganda
- Main actors/drivers
- Critical Factors/lessons that have Propelled the Development of the sector

Background

- OA is still among the fastest growing subsectors in Uganda
- There has been increasing interest and involvement from the private sector mainly as a result unfolding market opportunities in International, and of recent in the regional markets.
 - <u>Suitability</u> and <u>compatibility</u> to smallholder farming systems
 - Closer to and utilizes most traditional farming practices
 - Relatively low risk , given production and resource constraints
 - low market entry barriers compared to conventional fruits and vegetable exports
 - Increasing global demand for organic products and associated premium prices, contributing to improved household incomes in the rural

Current Status

• Currently

- Over 215,000 certified organic farmers
- 305,000 ha of certified land
- 44 certified export companies
- volume of exports growing at an average of 40% per annum in the past 2 years
- Value of exports to international markets stood at USD 43 Million by end of 2013

Current Status contd...

Products

- At export level, a number of products including;
- Coffee, Cotton, Cocoa, Sesame, Chillies
- Fresh and Dried fruits (pineapples, mangoes, apple bananas, Jack fruits), passion fruits,
- Fruit pulp, Juices, concentrates
- Ginger, vanilla, other spices (cardamom, black pepper etc)
- Textiles, Shea nuts/butter, Fish

Current Status contd...

- Domestic Market still small but growing at about 50% p.a
- With Support from the UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity building project, The East African Organic Product Standard (EAOPS) and the Mark (EAOM) were developed and have now been integrated are being used for the facilitating domestic and regional marketing in organic products

- Diversity of products at domestic market growing fast, including Animal products
- 3 supermarkets stocking organic products
- 4 exclusive organic outlets (including the NOGAMU shop)
- Home delivery scheme (Basket delivery)



Current status contd....

- A National organic certification body (Ugocert), in addition to 6 other international certifiers
- Ugocert is now handling about 40% of certified projects
- Again With Support from UNCTAD, A national organic policy is in its final stages , and a cabinet memo is being drafted for presenting to cabinet for last approval stages
- Organic agriculture has also been incorporated in the five year National

















Collaboration between Actors; Main Actors

• Farmers

 Over 90% of the organic farming population in Uganda are smallholder farmers

Local and international NGOs

- Mobilization of the smallholder farmers (building viable, focused groups)
- Training of farmers on production, quality control and marketing aspects
- Developing and establishing internal quality management (IQM) systems among the groups

Main actors contd...

- Market linkage and promotional services
- Advocacy for increased government and development partner support to organic sector
- Financing of activities and Partnerships (HIVOS, SIDA, Government of Austria through UNCTAD,ITC, AU)
- Export Companies/local traders
 - Buying organic produce from, and working with the smallholder farmers
 - Quite often directly providing similar services as the NGOs (except lobbying) to the smallholder farmers they work with

Main Actors contd...

- Universities/Research institutes
 - Uganda Martyrs University is running Full Degree, diploma and short certificate courses in organic agriculture
 - Makerere University has been hosting annual international summer course in organic agriculture (SUA, University of Nairobi and BOKU University of Austria, and is running MSc and PhD research programmes in OA
 - Makerere University senate has also approved 2 short courses targeting practioners (Organic honey Processing, and organic animal husbandry) to be run under the newly commissioned AFRISA, as vocational courses
 - Collaboration is being initiated with research institutes

- Parastatals (e.g. Uganda Export Promotions Board-UEPB, and Uganda National Bureau of Standards-UNBS)
 - Active in promoting organic exports as area of competitive advantage for smallholder farmers
 - Participating in the local/regional organic standards development processes with the industry
 - UNBS is the custodian of the East African Organic Products Standards in Uganda, and together with NOGAMU recently concluded a stakeholder consultation on the revision needs of the standard

• Government (e.g. Ministries)

- Ministry of Agriculture in Uganda is developing policy on organic agriculture together with all key stakeholders
- Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI), has been very active and supportive in all processes of promoting exports

Critical Factors/lessons that have Propelled the Development of the sector

- The formation and institutional coordination of the entire sector by NOGAMU, leading to well coordination among all actors, from the public and private sector
- The support from development partners such as UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity building task force, SIDA, ITC, HIVOS etc. have facilitated capacity building and mobilization of actors, as well as market and policy development.
- Positive involvement of Government and development of the organic policy.



Thank you for your attention

mkmuwanga@nogamu.org.ug www.nogamu.org.ug