

**1ST EASTERN AFRICA AGROECOLOGY CONFERENCE**  
TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS FOR RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION,  
CONSUMPTION AND SOCIAL WELLBEING

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*Strengthening Resilience and Sustainability in  
Food Systems for Environmental and Socioeconomic Development*

**EVALUATION OF THE GLOBAL  
ADVOCACY PROJECT (GAP) FOR THE  
ECOLOGICAL ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE: FOCUS ON  
EASTERN AFRICA – Ms. Venancia  
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# BIG CONCEPT

Bring the attention of your audience over a key concept using icons or illustrations



# INTRODUCTION

The GAP project has been implemented under the coordination of BvAT and the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya from 2018 to 2020 in five (5) Eastern Africa countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda). The specific goal for GAP project is to create awareness and better understanding among policymakers, practitioners, technocrats and development partners of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA), stimulate discussion and debate among them about EOA and its benefits to human, animal, plant and environmental health subsequently leading to efforts of supporting the EOA agenda.



## PURPOSE

Assess the achievements and impacts of the project resulting from interventions by implementing organizations of BvAT and PELUM Kenya in order to strengthen accountability to stakeholders.

Provide recommendations on actions necessary to increase GAP project effectiveness, impact, and promotion to scale up the project to full scale in Eastern Africa EOA countries.

Develop a write up on the best practices and lessons learnt for upscale as well as strategies for roll out of achievements to EOA-I Eastern Africa countries of implementation.



# PURPOSE

1. Assess evaluation was guided by the following objectives:
  2. To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the GAP project in supporting the overall goal of EOA-I of mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture into national policies and plans as well as its contribution to the Outcomes of EOA-I.
  3. To determine the number (or percent) of policy makers and other stakeholders who have been reached by the GAP project and in what ways.
  4. To assess the extent to which gender and access by the youth and other vulnerable groups were considered in the project budget and implementation.
- To draw key lessons from GAP Phase I to inform recommendations and actions for building on new opportunities, addressing the weaknesses and challenges experienced, most appropriate and motivating funding support arrangements, future programming, implementation, monitoring & evaluation and reporting on a sustained basis at all key levels (country, regional, continental platform and AU).

# Methodology and Approach:



1. The evaluation was carried out through a mixed methodology including both quantitative and qualitative approaches.
2. The evaluation approaches were also blended ranging from but not limited to Appreciative Inquiry, Value Chain Approach, Casual Effects and Participatory Approach. Appreciative Inquiry was employed because of its key premise of focusing on project strengths rather than on weaknesses. This approach was used to appreciate what worked well, envisioned results and the prospects of the project, what should be the ideal, planning and prioritizing activities and processes that worked well. On the other hand, the Value Chain Approach was incorporated to help in pointing out sources of competitive advantage and the project's spillover effects and possible future impacts. Moreover, Participatory Approach was adopted to gather the views of the project stakeholders so as to have a better understanding of the project, its activities and effects.

# Methodology and Approach:



1. For data collection, Key Informant Interviews were conducted with informants involved in the project as well as project beneficiaries across the five countries.
2. This helped to have an in-depth analysis of information about the project, thus contributing to achievement of the study objectives.

## Findings:



**Objective One:** Assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of the GAP project in supporting the overall goal of EOA-I of mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture into national policies and plans as well as its contribution to the Outcomes of EOA-I.

### The findings for this objective revealed that:

1. All the nineteen GAP project activities were undertaken as planned apart from the policy formulations which take time as a result of involvement of third-party stakeholders (such as government and other stakeholder).
2. The GAP activities were relevant in achievement of EOA-I agenda and goals.
3. The activities under the GAP were effective in supporting the overall goal of mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture into national policies and plans as well as its contribution to the outcomes of EOA-I.
4. The process of using GAP Project in mainstreaming EOA into the National Plans and Policies 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 know-how of MSP facilitation to ensure the process remain relevant, has ownership amongst the members and ultimately, it is able to sustain partnerships and alliances.





## Findings:

**Objective Two:** To determine the number (or percent) of policy makers and other stakeholders who have been reached by the GAP project and in what ways. The findings established that:

1. To reach out to a wider scope of stakeholders, the implementing agencies for the GAP project adopted varied knowledge dissemination approaches (Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials, Documentaries, Videos, Radio programmes and Television programmes), knowledge products (knowledge databases, trainings, workshops and use of social media especially YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook).
2. By implementing GAP activities there was wide contribution towards EOA-I goals. Capacity building was well conducted and the key areas of focus were nutrition and food safety, organic technologies and practices, climate change, water management, resilience and sustainability of organic farming systems, inputs and product market development as well as technology transfer and learning among others.



## Findings:

1. A wide base of stakeholders is reached through the GAP project, and this is important in advancing EOA-I goals in the region. The number of stakeholders reached far surpassed the target number. For instance, through the project, a total of **1,720, 255** value chain actors comprising of farmers, input suppliers, processors and transporters were reached through GAP activities beyond the target of **34,000**. In addition, a total of 272 extension and rural service providers (extension officers) were reached and trained on benefits and applications of various EOA practices and standards.
2. Among the stakeholders reached were university students, value chain actors that is farmers, traders/ processors and consumers, processors, government policy makers and consumers. It is also worth noting that their expectations were achieved.

**To reach a wider base of stakeholders in future, it is important to adopt varied modes of stakeholders' engagement which range from but not limited to symposiums, trainings, round table meetings, exposure and learning visits and media.**



## Findings:

**Objective Three:** The extent to which gender and access by the youth and other vulnerable groups were considered in the project budget and implementation.

### The findings reflected that:

- ❖ More female were involved in GAP activities such as advocacy training workshops (67 percent versus 33 percent). Overall, there were slightly more female (55 percent) than male (45 percent) reached through the GAP project. This reflects feasible gender inclusivity.

There was however low youth involvement in the implementation and budgeting of the GAP project activities. Specifically, youth group involvement in GAP project activities was only 11 percent.

## Findings:



**Objective Four:** To evaluate the capacity building interventions carried out and how these have contributed to the advocacy and lobby work or messages to politicians and decision makers. The evaluation under this objective revealed the following.

- ❖ Training farmers on organic practices support through extension services, distribution of organic training manuals and setting up of demonstration sites were all considered relevant as they contributed to access of EOA knowledge and skills.

Farmer ToTs were equally important and relevant because they enabled the project to reach larger number of beneficiaries through cascading the training, and besides farmers learn better from other farmers.

## Findings:



- ❖ Farmer field days gave an opportunity to farmers, extension agents and input suppliers to showcase their achievements, such as field experiments, market innovations, practices for EOA to fellow farmers and other stakeholders. In the process, there was a lot of learning that took place amongst the participants making them relevant events for the practitioners.
- ❖ Engagement in farmers' market days, the setting up of organic shops, and group sales outlets, and participation in international exhibitions in Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia were relevant in providing the opportunity of producers and markets actors in the EOA arena to interact and engage with the markets /buyers. Government officials who were facilitated to attend the international exhibitions appreciated the relevance and opportunity in promoting EOA.

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## Recommendations for the next GAP phase

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- ❖ **Need for a Call to action Strategy:** Urgent need to develop a call to action strategy, advocacy strategy and a monitoring and evaluation framework (Appendices 5 and 6)
- ❖ **Need for Post-Conference Evaluation:** Undertake post conference activity evaluation. This is crucial to get feedback for ensuring future success of GAP activities;
- ❖ **Need for Research and Development:** GAP activities should be supported by research directed to innovative farm inputs, Bio pesticide and bio fertilizers among others;

**Need for Resource Allocation:** To address the financial challenges, there is a need to beef up fundraising where stakeholders should come together to fundraise for EOA activities. Emerging trend such as use of technology, virtual meetings and others should be adopted in implementation of GAP projects;





## Findings:



- **Recommendations for the next GAP phase**
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and Periodic Follow-ups:** There is a need for a clear strategy for monitoring and evaluation of GAP activities. There should be periodic meeting to report and engage on strategic discussion regarding the GAP activities;
- ❖ **Organizational Structure:** Expand GAP to other EOA implementing partners other than Kenya and Uganda. There should be a Lead Organization for GAP programs mandated to develop a common result framework for GAP;
- ❖ **Stakeholder Involvement:** There is call to include civil societies and get support from related ministry to drive the EOA agenda which is very expensive initiative that requires various stakeholders on board. There is need to involve indigenous communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of GAP projects. Joint effort is required when legislating EOA polices and implementation;
- ❖ **Data Access Framework:** There is limited common platform to access EOA data. A clear framework for EOA data should be developed;

# Thanks!

ANY QUESTIONS?

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