



United Nations Environment Programme  
Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement

Economics and Trade Branch



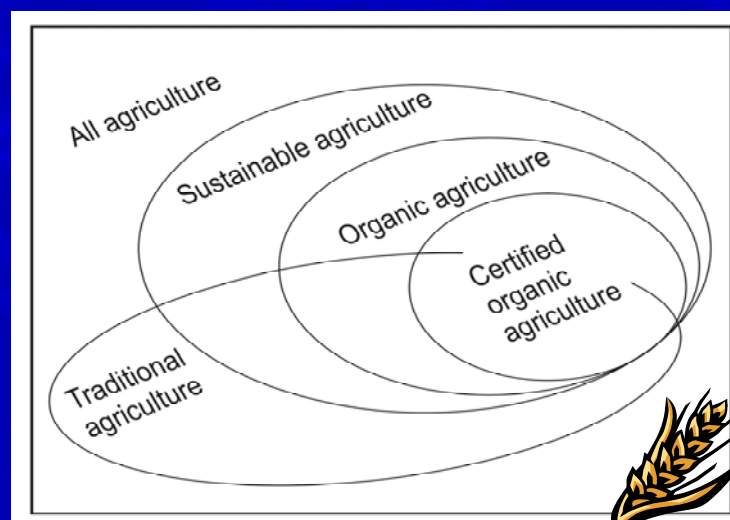
# Organic Agriculture

## A Trade and Environment Opportunity

Expert Group Meeting on Trade And Environment  
Priorities in the Arab Region  
11-13 November 2007

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## What is organic agriculture?



## OA as a sustainable development opportunity



- Economic benefits
- Food security benefits
- Environmental benefits
- Social & cultural benefits

## Economic benefits



- $\Pi = P \cdot Q - TC$
- Where
- $\Pi$  = Profit/income,  $P \cdot Q$  = Total Revenue, and  $TC$  = Total Cost
- $\uparrow P$  and  $\uparrow Q \rightarrow \Pi$ , so generally incomes rise

## Food security benefits



- Higher incomes
- Higher yields
- Diversified production
- Improved nutrition

## Environmental Benefits



- Less pollution
- Improved soil, incl. increased water retention and less soil erosion
- Enhanced biodiversity
- No genetic contamination

## Environmental Benefits (cont'd.)



- Mitigated climate change
- Reduced energy consumption
- Landscape services

## Social & cultural benefits



- Benefits for smallholders
- Women's empowerment
- Builds on traditional knowledge
- Reduced rural-urban migration
- Improved health & safety
- Community revitalization



## OA and export potential



Processed food  
Nuremberg, Germany

## Increased involvement of large food retailers in the organic food sector



Conventional supermarket chain with  
organic shelves, Rome, Italy

## Specialized organic shops



Organic and health store, Madrid, Spain

## Organic agriculture has moved into the mainstream



Annual BioFach international fair: 14 000 products, 2 000 exhibitors, 30 000 visitors

## High Price Premiums



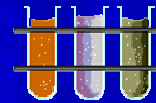
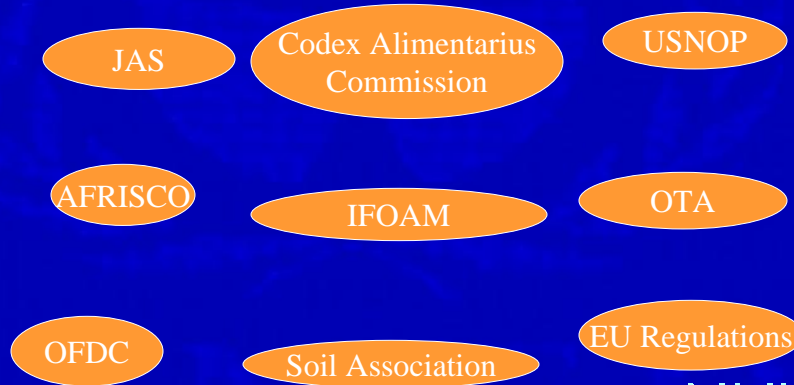
Organic (Krav) Banana Vs conventional Banana in a Swedish Supermarket.

## Production challenges



- Little or no government support (policies, agriculture extension, R&D)
- Conversion period
- Knowledge intensive
- Sometimes lack of organic inputs
- Lack of secure land tenure

## Lack of harmonization, equivalence & mutual recognition



## UNEP Work on Organic Agriculture in East Africa



- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Uganda

## Specific objectives



- Facilitate national and regional multi-stakeholder dialogue among all relevant parties
- Review the current practices and situation regarding organic agriculture
- Facilitate the development of policy options for promoting organic agriculture

## Specific objectives



- Facilitate regional cooperation among the three countries
- Explore the potential development of an East African organic standard

## Project Activities



- Background studies
- National integrated assessments of organic agriculture
- Regional cooperation

## Results/Impacts



- Development and official launch of The East African Organic Product Standard (EAOPS). The EAOPS have been adopted by the East African Unions as its official standard and was launched by Edward N. Lowassa, Prime Minister of Tanzania.
- EAOPS is one of only two regional organic standards in the world, joining the European Union Organic Standard, and is the first ever developed in cooperation between the public, private and NGO sectors.

## Results/Impacts



Prime Minister Lowassa launching the EAOPS and East African Organic Mark

## Results/Impacts



- In Tanzania, the agriculture policy for the first time will include a section on organic agriculture.
- In Uganda, a multi-stakeholder process including the key public and private sector actors is developing an organic agriculture policy
- In Kenya, the food and nutrition policy is under review. As a result of this initiative the Permanent Secretary has decided to include a section on organic agriculture in the draft



## *Thank you*

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