

Organic Agriculture, Food Safety and Supply in Northern Ghana - CAOF's Strategy

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Outline of Presentation

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- Food Safety issues in Northern Ghana
- CAOF's Strategy
- Successes so far
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Introduction

- Poor production process and climate change
- Green Revolution and greed threatens the principles of organic Agriculture
- Agriculture accounts for about 65% of employment and 35% of gross domestic product (GDP) in West Africa. (World Bank 2013)
- Agriculture sector employs 35.95% of the active labour force in the Ghana (GSS, 2017).

Intro contn

- Synthetic inputs in the name of food security and poverty reduction
- Organic agriculture only uses 0.2% of Ghana's Agricultural land (FiBL & IFOAM, 2015)

Coalition for the Advancement of Organic Farming (CAOF)

- Formed in 2008/2009
- Made up of individuals, private, non-profit, voluntary non-governmental organizations in Ghana
- High cost of certification for Small holder farmers
- Advocacy and Support for production
- 17 organizations, over 17,000 farmers, 59% female

Food Safety in Northern Ghana

- World wide consumer awareness of food safety issues
- Inappropriate use of chemical inputs (43% illiteracy in rural areas)
- Irrigated lands have become acidic and cannot support some crops

Food Safety Cont..



CAOF's Strategy

- Research
- Advocacy and awareness creation
- project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Successes

- Advocacy action on misuse of pesticides
- Made contributions to COP 17
- Implemented NGGM II project – Piloted the Ghana Green Label standard in Northern Ghana
- Currently working on NGGM III – developing the value chains of selected vegetables
- Advocating for appropriate inputs and certification

Challenges

- Funding
- Government Policies – FISP, PFJ

Conclusion

- CAOF is in pole position to address food safety issues in Ghana through OA
- Sustainability of actions through PMSD approach
- Ability to Engage government in constructive dialogue