

Towards mapping Ecological Organic
Agriculture (EOA) research into use in
Nigeria

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- **World Board Member of the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISO FAR) (2014-2017 & 2017 – 2020)**
- **Member Editorial Board of Organic Agriculture Journal of ISO FAR published by Springer.**
- **President of the Association of Organic Agriculture Practitioners of Nigeria.**
- **Member of International Sunflower Association (ISA) (Paris) (Next Conf. Novisad, Serbia 2019)**
- **Participating in local, regional and international researches on organic agriculture funded by national and international donor agencies e.g. Five year Crop rotation study on OA, FARA-IP, FODA-I**

OUTLINE

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A: INTRODUCTION

Africa – 2nd largest continent after Asia.

- **Agriculture is the back bone of the economy of most African nations.**
- **70% of Africans are into agriculture.**
- **50% total export value.**
- **30% GDP.**
- **Small holder farmers (predominantly resource-constrained) produce 90% of food in Africa.**

B: JUSTIFICATION

- Sequel to the African Heads of State unanimous decision (EX.CL/Dec. 621 (XVII) in 2011) to mainstream organic agriculture into the agricultural systems of all member states by the year 2020, several activities were carried out by the EOA-I consortium with a view to improving Africa's smallholder farms and thereby boost food security.
- Therefore, one of such activities was conducted in 2016 with an overall objective to document EOA research into use in Nigeria.

C: METHODOLOGY

- A desk review of publications and reports related to EOA in the last previous years (2013 – 2015) was done in 2016 to update an earlier exercise carried out in 2013.
- The team sourced hard copies, accessed electronic copies and reviewed relevant journal articles published by Nigerian scientists in the last three years in local, national and international levels to bring out salient contributions to EOA.
- Proceedings of national and international conferences/workshops were also sourced and reviewed.
- Thereafter, the abstracts of relevant articles were compiled and impact points of the researches highlighted.

C: METHODOLOGY CONTD.

The activity focused on the following eleven thematic areas:

1. Agronomy (Soil science, crop production and management)
2. Plant health (plant pathology, nematology, virology, bacteriology etc.)
3. Genetic and Breeding
4. Molecular genetics
5. Physiology
6. Food quality
7. Extension
8. Socio-economics
9. Policy issues
10. Organic livestock
11. Organic aquaculture

A total of **203 articles** were reviewed by the team from over forty local and international publications. Thereafter, a list of ten recommendations was compiled to enhance the impact of the initiative in the continent.

D: FINDINGS

After the reviewing the 203 articles the spread was as follows:

1. Agronomy (131=65%)
2. Plant health (43= 21%)
3. Food quality (4=1.9%)
4. Extension (10=4%)
5. Socio-economics (3=1.4%)
6. Policy issues (3=1.4%)
7. Organic livestock (5=2.4%)
8. Organic aquaculture (4=1.9%).

No articles were found on Genetics & Breeding, Molecular genetics and Physiology.

E: CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. More research efforts to be geared towards developing and evaluating branded organic fertilizers.
2. Scientists should be weary of using poultry manure as soil amendment without mentioning the bird and litter type where the manure is from.
3. Scientists should be compelled to state the nutrient content of any organic soil amendment to be used in any study.
4. More concerted research efforts should be geared towards developing resilient varieties for the staple food crops (cassava, maize, sorghum, rice, millet, yam etc) that are suitable for organic production systems.
5. Scientists in the areas of Genetics & Plant breeding, Molecular genetics and Crop Physiology should be encouraged to carry out research activities that can boost food production without breaking the rules and the four cardinal principles of organic agriculture (Care, Ecology, Fairness and Health), knowing that GMOs are not allowed in organic agriculture.

E: CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

contd.

6. Livestock breeders should also be encouraged to develop breeds of livestock that can perform well under organic production systems.
7. Organic feeds for livestock and aquaculture should be developed for prospective stakeholders.
8. Simple training manuals for use by extension personnel must also be developed by subject matter specialists.
9. Position papers that demonstrate success stories on organic farming should be developed for the policy makers in order to assist them in articulating policies that will support organic farming in the country.
10. The organic bill being prepared should be adequately followed up to a logical conclusion.

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• **THANK YOU**

