



Aquaculture

Introducing the

East African Organic Products Standards



1.Location and Conversion: EAOPS Section 11.1

- Convert your aquaculture farm to organic by keeping it clean and away from pollution.
- Start with natural, non-GMO fish and give them a clean, healthy environment.
- Conversion takes 6-24 months depending on your system.



2. Healthy conditions: EAOPS Section 11.2

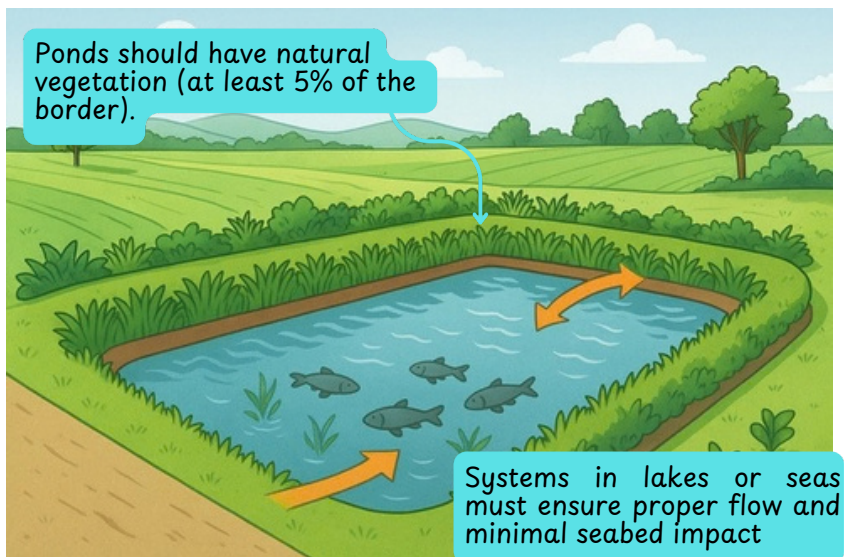
- The environment must meet the species' natural
- needs space, light, oxygen, and temperature.
- Water must be clean, with natural pond bottoms
- where possible (especially for carp).
- Overcrowding and concrete tanks are discouraged.

3. Nutrition: EAOPS Section 11.6

- Feed fish with organic feed made from plants and sustainably caught fish.
- Avoid chemicals, hormones, or synthetic additives.
- Use non-organic feed only if approved and below 30%.



4. Eco Friendly systems: EAOPS Section 11.3



- Closed recirculation systems are only allowed for hatcheries.
- Escaped fish must be recaptured and reported.

5. Health and Welfare: EAOPS Section 11.7

- Focus on prevention through good water, hygiene, and low-stress conditions.
- Treat disease early using natural or herbal remedies.
- Antibiotics are only used when absolutely necessary and under strict rules.
- Growth hormones and prophylactic drugs are banned.



6. Handling, Transport and Harvest: EAOPS Section 11.8

- Handle fish gently to avoid stress.
- Maintain clean water and proper oxygen during transport.
- Fish must be stunned before slaughter to reduce pain.

7. Aquatic plants (Seaweed and Algae) EAOPS Section 11.4

- Organic aquatic plants should be grown or harvested sustainably, without harming natural ecosystems.
- Production areas must not be contaminated by chemicals or pollutants.
- Only natural or organic nutrients can be used, mainly from organic aquaculture systems nearby.



- For land-based systems, nutrient levels in discharge water must be the same or lower than in inflowing water.
- Cleaning of equipment should use physical or mechanical means only, with permitted natural substances.
- Harvesting must not damage the aquatic environment or biodiversity.

In this brochure you can see some of the requirements of the East African Organic Products Standards. This standard was adopted by the East African Community in April 2007 and has been reviewed in 2018 and 2023. It thereby became an official standard for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. This popular version has been developed by the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) through the AFPQ Project titled as Strengthening Regional Trade through Compliance to East African Organic Products Standards which is funded by GIZ through Biovision African Trust (BvAT). It has also been validated by the National Validation Committee for the Knowledge products established under the Knowledge Hub for OA/AE in East Africa (KHEA) Project.



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Other brochure in the series

- Crop Production
- Livestock production
- Processing of organic products
- Bee Keeping