

The Tanzania National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) POPULAR VERSION

1. Introduction

Agriculture is the backbone of Tanzania's economy. It provides food, employment, income, and raw materials for industries. However, the sector faces numerous challenges, including:

- i. Climate change;
- ii. Drought and unpredictable rainfall;
- iii. Declining soil fertility;
- iv. Increased prevalence of pests, diseases, and weeds;
- v. Loss of indigenous seeds and livestock breeds;
- vi. High costs of agricultural inputs;
- vii. Unreliable markets;
- viii. Limited awareness regarding organic farming and agroecology.

To address these challenges, the Government has developed the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) for the period 2023–2030.

2. What is NEOAS strategy about?

The National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) is Tanzania's eight-year plan to promote food production while prioritizing the health of the soil, water, plants, animals, humans, and the environment as a whole. The strategy aims to produce safe food through the prudent use of natural resources and by reducing reliance on industrial chemicals. It encourages farming practices that work in harmony with nature rather than against it.

NEOAS brings together traditional farming knowledge and modern science to help farmers: Produce safe and nutritious food; Improve soil health and protect water sources; Reduce dependence on costly external inputs; Conserve biodiversity and local seeds; Adapt to droughts, floods and changing weather; Increase household incomes and employment; Access better local, regional and international markets. The strategy covers crops, livestock, fisheries and related value chains.

3. Why is NEOAS important?

The NEOAS can help to increase food production; improve soil health and fertility; conserve the environment and biodiversity; mitigate the impacts of climate change; reduce production costs; provide safe and nutritious food; Increase farmers' income; expand employment opportunities for youth and women; preserve indigenous seeds and livestock breeds; open up local, regional, and international markets.

4. What ecological organic agriculture means?

Ecological organic agriculture is a farming system that works with nature. It combines crops, livestock, trees, soil, water and biodiversity in a sustainable way. This system aims to produce safe food by using natural resources responsibly and reducing reliance on industrial chemicals.

Typical practices promoted by ecological organic agriculture are:

- i. Use of organic fertilizers – Compost, animal manure, green manure
- ii. Mix crops – plant maize and beans, vegetables and trees together
- iii. Natural pest control – Neem, ash, trap crops, beneficial insects instead of strong chemicals
- iv. Save local seeds - Use and improve traditional seeds adapted to our environment
- v. Keep soil covered – Mulching to stop erosion and keep moisture
- vi. Keep animal and grow crops – Use manure to improve soil fertility for crops which are then fed to animals.
- vii. Careful and sustainable use of water and land

5. The NEOAS Vision

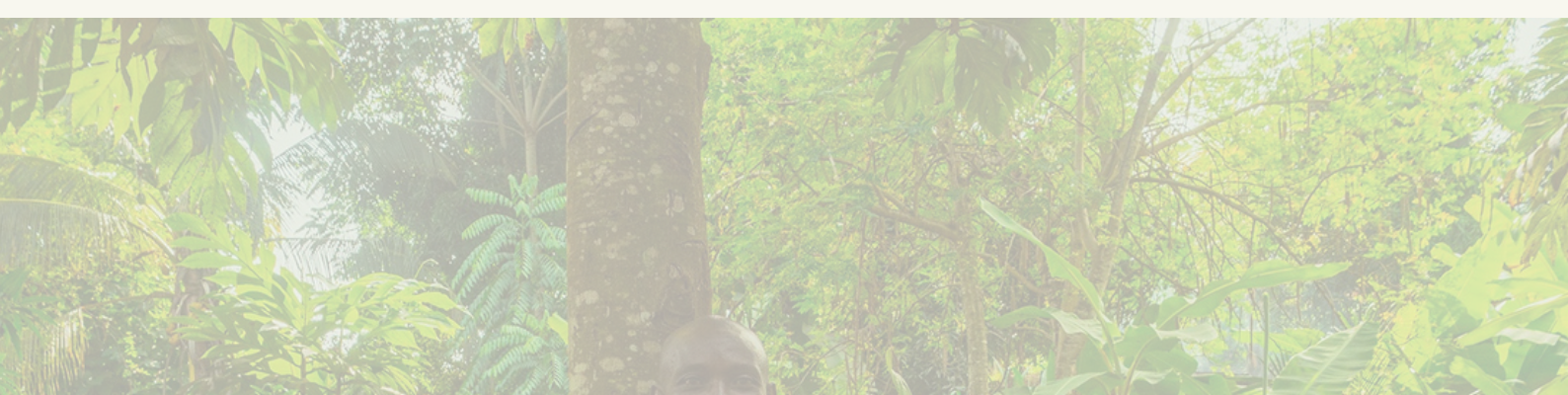
A leading ecological organic agriculture subsector that improves environmental conservation, human health, climate resilience, food and nutrition security, farmers' livelihoods and national economic growth. Stepping stone initiative cost: 120,000 USD

6. The NEOAS Mission

To create supportive policies, investments and partnerships that expand ecological organic agriculture through research, training, extension, processing, value addition, market development and access to domestic and international markets.

7. Overall NEOAS goal

To accelerate development and mainstream ecological organic agriculture subsector into existing national frameworks for agricultural sector development in order to enhance sustainable environmental conservation for improved health, income and food security by 2030.



8. The 12 Strategic Areas

8.1. Research, training and extension inputs available to smallholder farmers

The strategy will strengthen research institutions, universities, colleges and extension services so that farmers receive practical and reliable knowledge.

Planned actions include:

- i. Training extension officers and farmers
- ii. Establishing demonstration farms
- iii. Supporting research on pests, diseases, soils, seeds and markets
- iv. Combining indigenous knowledge with scientific research
- v. Sharing successful farming practices between communities

8.2. Better ecological inputs and machinery

Farmers will be supported to access suitable and affordable:

- i. Organic seeds and planting materials
- ii. Local breeds and fish fingerlings
- iii. Compost and bio-fertilizers
- iv. Biological pesticides
- v. Small-scale farm tools and machinery
- vi. Technologies for processing ecological inputs

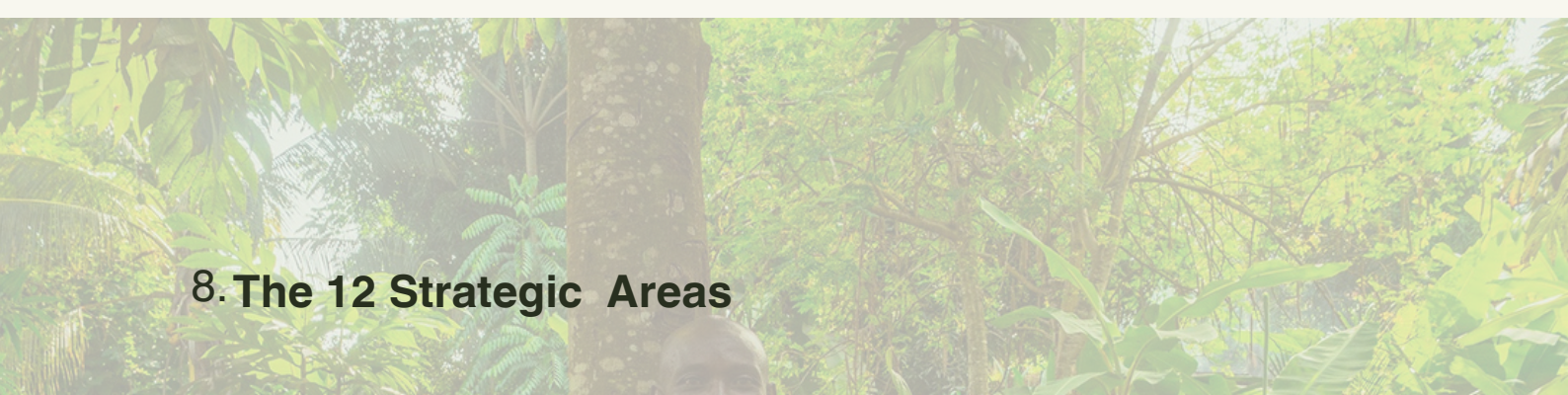
The strategy also supports local production of ecological inputs and machinery.

8.3. Information and digital services

Information will be shared through: mobile phones and digital platforms; radio and television; and social media. Information dissemination will also be carried out through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) demonstration farms, field days, printed materials; market information systems, as well as training and public awareness campaigns. The aim is to help farmers know what to produce, how to produce it and where to sell it.

8.4. Coordination and partnerships

The strategy will improve coordination among: Government ministries and agencies; Local government authorities; Farmers and cooperatives; Research and training institutions; NGOs and civil society organizations; Private companies; Financial institutions; Development partners; and Media organizations. An Ecological Organic Agriculture Council and a coordination unit are proposed to guide implementation.



8. The 12 Strategic Areas

8.5. Standards and affordable certification

Certification helps consumers identify ecological and organic products and enables farmers to access premium markets. The strategy will:

- i. Promote East African organic standards
- ii. Strengthen Participatory Guarantee Systems
- iii. Support grower-group certification
- iv. Develop an ecological organic quality mark or seal
- v. Build national certification capacity
- vi. Reduce certification costs
- vii. Improve inspection and verification systems

8.6. Strengthening Value chains and processing

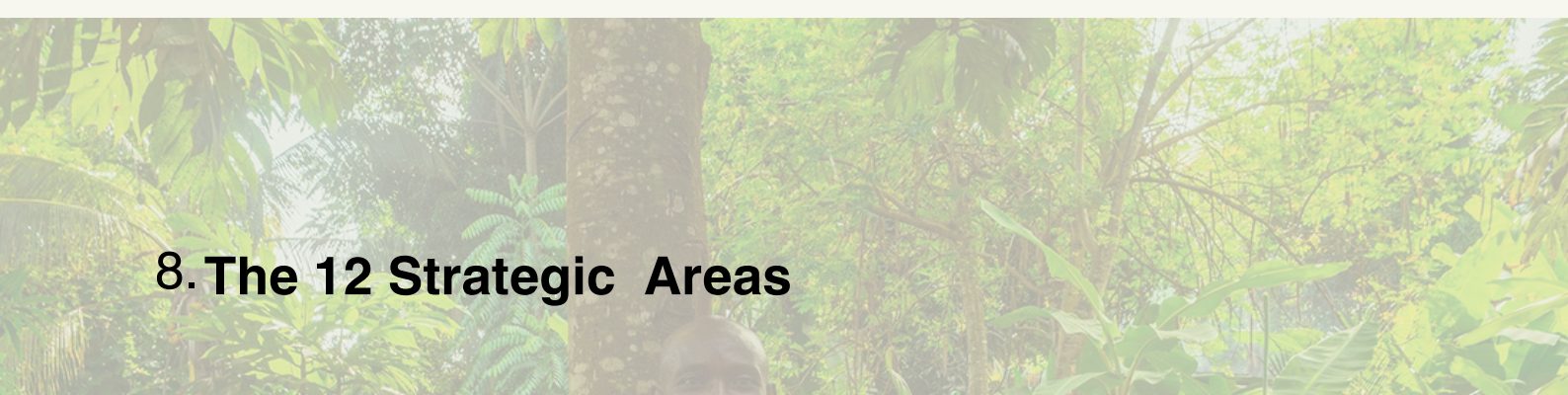
Most organic agricultural products are currently sold in their raw state. This strategy will enable farmers to move beyond raw material production and reach suitable markets by strengthening processing and packaging; storage and transportation; branding and labeling; quality control; product development; producer schemes; farmer cooperatives; and linkages between producers, processors, and buyers. This will help farmers realize greater profits from products such as coffee, cotton, spices, fruits, vegetables, cocoa, and traditional foods.

8.7. Environmental conservation and climate resilience

The strategy will promote traditional environmental friendly conservation methods, including: agroforestry; soil and water conservation; restoration of degraded land; protection of wetlands and water sources; biodiversity conservation; traditional practices such as “Ngitili” and the “Ngoro” farming system; and the use of indigenous seeds.

8.8. Participation of women, youth, and persons with special needs

The strategy will ensure that women, youth and people with special needs will be supported to participate fully in ecological organic agriculture. The support will include: Skills and entrepreneurship training; Access to land and Finance; Digital agriculture opportunities; Processing and value addition; Employment and agribusiness opportunities; Participation in farmer groups and cooperatives.



8. The 12 Strategic Areas

8.9. Access to Finance and investment

Many farmers are unable to invest due to a lack of capital and affordable credit. The strategy will promote:

- i. The establishment of financial services tailored to farmers;
- ii. The formation of savings and credit groups;
- iii. Access to loans with favorable terms;
- iv. The provision of training to enhance financial and business literacy;
- v. The establishment of strong cooperative societies;
- vi. The establishment of an Organic Ecological Agriculture Fund; and
- vii. Private sector investment.

8.10. Irrigation and water management

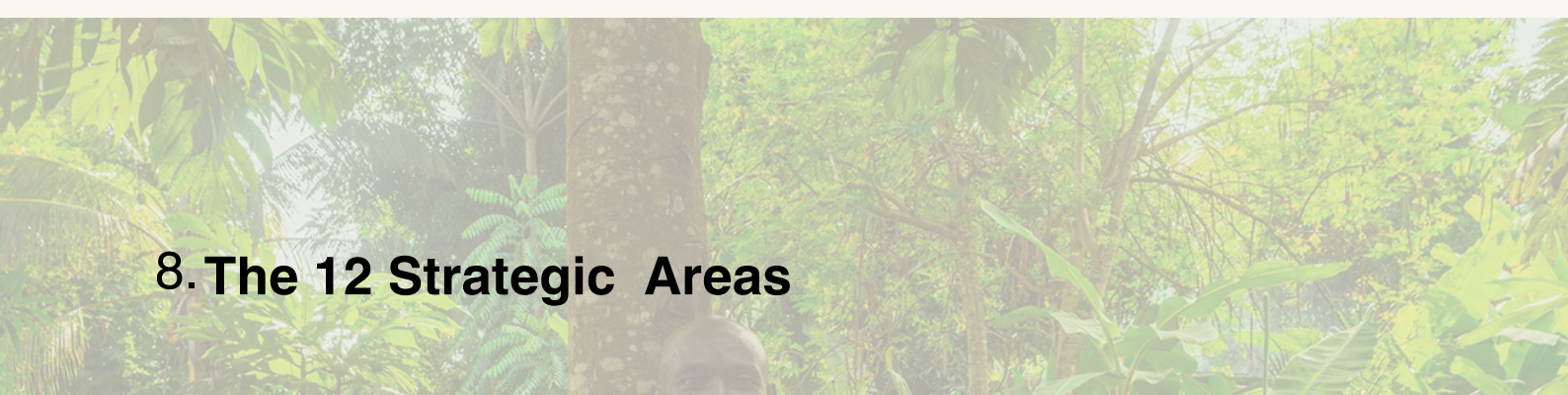
Climate change has led to increased drought and unpredictable rainfall. The strategy will promote access to reliable water to support year-round production and climate resilience. Key areas of focus include:

- i. Identifying suitable water sources
- ii. Affordable irrigation technologies
- iii. Water harvesting and conservation
- iv. Farmer water-user groups
- v. Training in water management
- vi. Local by-laws for sustainable water use
- vii. Irrigation systems suitable for ecological farming

8.11. Access to and use of land

Land is the foundation of organic ecological agriculture. Farmers require secure and suitable land for organic ecological agriculture. The strategy will promote:

- i. Identifying suitable land;
 - ii. Allocating land for specific uses;
 - iii. Safeguarding optimal land-use plans;
 - iv. Providing land to women, youth, and persons with special needs;
 - v. Reducing land disputes; and
 - vi. Protecting land ownership rights.
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8. The 12 Strategic Areas

8.12. Strengthening business and markets

The strategy aims to expand markets for ecological organic products in Tanzania, East Africa and internationally. Planned actions include:

- i. Establishing and strengthening local markets
 - ii. Linking farmers with buyers and processors
 - iii. Improving market information
 - iv. Promoting ecological products in supermarkets, hotels and restaurants
 - v. Supporting export promotion
 - vi. Encouraging investment in ecological value chains
 - vii. Developing products that meet market requirements
 - viii. Reviewing taxes and trade procedures
 - ix. Promoting ecological products in public institutions such as schools, hospitals and universities
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9. KEY TARGETS BY 2030

S/N	Target Description	Target by 2030
1	Farmers reached with ecological organic agriculture knowledge	3,000,000
2	Extension officers trained	5,000
3	Demonstration farms established	1000
4	Institutions or factories producing ecological inputs	50
5	Farmers using ecological inputs appropriately	1,000,000
6	Community seed banks established	100
7	Local seed and genetic-resource accessions conserved	1,000
8	Value-chain actors trained or certified	1,000,000
9	Cooperatives and associations strengthened	500
10	Ecological organic agriculture markets developed	100
11	Ecological agriculture land clusters established	100
12	Producers linked to markets	1,000,000
13	Youth empowered	2,000,000
14	Women empowered	3,000,000
15	People with special needs supported	500,000
16	Nature-based and ecosystem-based solutions expanded	20
17	Farmers supported to use irrigation	1,000,000
18	Percent Certification costs reduced	30
19	Ecological Organic Agriculture Fund established	1



10. Who will implement the strategy?

S/N	Major Actors	Responsibilities
1	Government	• Provide policies, laws and regulations • Coordinate implementation • Include ecological organic agriculture in national and local plans • Provide extension services • Mobilize resources • Monitor progress • Support standards, certification and market development
2	Local government authorities	• Include ecological agriculture in district and village plans • Support farmers with extension and business services • Facilitate land-use planning • Strengthen farmer groups and cooperatives • Help establish local markets and irrigation systems
3	Farmers and cooperatives	• Adopt ecological farming practices • Conserve local seeds and breeds • Participate in training and farmer groups • Keep production records • Work collectively to access finance, certification and markets

10. Who will implement the strategy?...

4	Research and training institutions	• Conduct practical research • Develop appropriate technologies • Train extension officers and farmers • Document indigenous knowledge • Test ecological inputs and farming methods
5	Private sector	• Ecological inputs • Farm machinery • Processing and packaging • Certification • Storage and transport • Digital services • Finance and market development
6	NGOs and development partners	• Community mobilization • Training and awareness • Research and innovation • Market linkages • Capacity building • Resource mobilization • Scaling up successful projects
	Media	• Share farming information • Promote ecological products • Publicize business opportunities • Document success stories Connect farmers, consumers and markets
	Consumers	• Purchasing safe and certified products; • Valuing farmers' products; • Promoting the consumption of nutritious food; Providing feedback on product quality and availability



11. Financing

The estimated budget for implementing the strategy is **TZS 52,729,340,575**

Funding is expected from Government budget allocations; Development partners and donors; Private-sector investment; Financial institutions; Farmer organizations and cooperatives; Climate and biodiversity funds; Market-based income and certification services; Fundraising events and partnerships.

12. Monitoring and accountability

Progress will be monitored through: Quarterly progress reports; Annual implementation reports; Annual monitoring and evaluation reports; Stakeholder review meetings; Mid-term evaluation; Final evaluation; Regular collection of data from farmers, institutions and implementing organizations. The strategy is intended to remain flexible so that activities can be adjusted when conditions change.

13. The message to all Tanzanians

Ecological organic agriculture is everyone's responsibility. It requires participation of farmers, the government, businesspeople, researchers, consumers, and all institutions must work together.

By adopting Ecological organic agriculture we will:

- secure safe food for today and tomorrow;
- conserve land and water;
- protect the environment;
- reduce farming costs;
- increase household income;
- create jobs and market opportunities;
- build climate-resilient agriculture.

“Ecological organic agriculture ensures we have food today and tomorrow while preserving the environment.”



CONCLUSION

This Knowledge Product is a simplified and practical version of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS), developed to support wider access and use of NEOAS-related knowledge.

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Access more knowledge:

KCOA Digital Platform

<https://kcoa-africa.org/>

