



## International Training Course on Organic Agriculture

# *Learning beyond conventions*

BOKU LV 933.323

**Makerere University, Kampala & Field sites  
Uganda, July 2011**



# Learning Organics

## What is the ITCOA?





# Training for the future

## The International Training Course on Organic Agriculture offers training beyond conventions

- It is an academic capacity development project that started in 2005 and annually takes place in Uganda
- It offers an intercultural and interdisciplinary learning environment by bringing together students and trainers from the south and north
- It enables learning about innovation in organic agriculture across disciplines



# Background

## Why to launch an ITCOA?



# Learning for the future

**Organic agriculture is one of the most exciting and timely areas of agricultural development**

- The number of non-certified and certified organic farmers is growing rapidly in East Africa
- Supporting the emerging organic agriculture sector requires a conducive institutional environment and skilled experts
- Organic agriculture is not part of the standard curricula in most East African Universities



# Goals

What are the goals of the ITCOA?



# Learning goals

1. Understanding the **holistic concept of organic agriculture** and learning to differentiate between approaches to organic agriculture
2. Understanding organic agriculture from an **innovation systems thinking** point of view
3. Understanding **transition processes** to organic agriculture



# Didactical approach

What distinguishes the ITCOA from conventional training?



# Learning processes

**Emphasis is placed on the facilitation of learning processes (rather than classical top-down teaching).**

- 40 students with different backgrounds and experiences learn together in an intercultural, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary set-up
- Balance between teaching, small group discussions, mini workshops, plenary debates, excursions, etc.
- Practical field work within ongoing organic agriculture projects – “action learning”



FARMERS

FARMERS

EXPORTER

FARMERS

BATMAN

FARMER ASSOCIATION

FARMERS

FARMERS

STUDENT

DANCE







# Programme

Activities in and around Kampala  
and up-country



# Interactive preparation

- E-learning platform for thematic preparation, exchange of literature, moderated discussion fora
- Preparatory seminars in May/June



# Two weeks of field training

**The ITCOA is organised like a project with distinct planning, implementation and reporting phases**

1. Model farm visit
2. Excursions
3. Thematic lectures and discussion rounds
4. Field work preparation
5. Field work
6. Reflection & analysis of field work results
7. Final presentation













2001

2001

FUTURE

PRICES

2010

COLLECTIVE MARKETING 2009

COMPETITIVE 2006

F2M 2005

GROUP FORMATION 2004

2003



# Stakeholders

Who are partners and stakeholders of the ITCOA?



# Multi-organisation initiative

The ITCOA brings together a wide range of stakeholders and actors.

- **Universities:** MUK, SUA, UoN, BDU, BOKU
- **Research organisations:** CIAT
- **Private sector:** Africa Organics, Biofresh, etc.
- **Governmental organisation:** Local government, NAADS
- **Civil society / NGOs:** A2N, UEEF, Horizont3000, Caritas, etc.
- **Donor organisations:** Biovision, etc.
- **Organic Agriculture Movements:** NOGAMU



# Participants

Who can participate in the ITCOA?



# Eligibility criteria

- Enrolled at BOKU & registered in BOKUonline
- **Eligible disciplines** (Agriculture / Agronomy, Land use and Management, Agribusiness / Economics, Food Science and Technology, Agriculture Extension Education, Agriculture Engineering, Horticulture, Forestry, Rural Development, Rural Sociology)
- Study year (BOKU: preferably 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year)
- Strong motivation
- Basic knowledge on organic agriculture
- Excellent English skills
- Social and cultural adaptation skills
- Completeness of application



# Costs for BOKU students

- Total costs / person: € 1.200,-
- Reduced tuition fees for BOKU students: € 500,-  
(covering accommodation, catering, transport, training material, social programme)
- International travel (~€ 800,-)
- Additional costs: Vaccination, visa, health & travel insurance



# Prospect

## Next steps to take



# Roadmap

- Deadline written application
- Oral interviews
- Announcement of selected participants
- Payment of tuition fees
- 3 preparatory seminars
- E-learning
- Course duration

*Exact dates to be announced*

31<sup>st</sup> March

11<sup>th</sup> April

15<sup>th</sup> April

31<sup>st</sup> April

May-June

May-June

~9<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup> July



# Application process

## Written application

- Application forms available on [www.go-organic.org](http://www.go-organic.org) (training)
- Applications sent to [cdr@boku.ac.at](mailto:cdr@boku.ac.at)

## Oral interviews

- 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011, 16:00-19:00, 20 min./person



# Preparatory seminars

- 9. May 2011
- 6. June 2011
- 20. June 2011

17:00 – 19:00, Seminar Room, Baracke 5



# Preparations

- Flight, vaccinations, health & travel insurance, visa
- Active participation in e-learning
- Attend complementary lectures
  - Organic land use and livelihood systems in tropical and subtropical regions (933.319)
  - Facilitating organic farming in tropical and subtropical regions (933.320)
  - Participatory Methods and Tools for Mountain Forestry Applications (732.317)





# Contacts

## Project coordinators

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