



**THE 5TH WEST AFRICAN ORGANIC CONFERENCE (WAOC)
HELD IN ACCRA, GHANA, FROM 12TH – 15TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

**THE ACCRA 2019 DECLARATION ON:
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE: LIFE FOR ALL**

We, the over 350 participants, representing various stakeholders of Organic and Ecological Agriculture from about 30 countries from all continents of the world attending the 5th West African Organic Conference held in Accra, Ghana from 12th to 15th November 2019, having deliberated on the theme '**Organic Agriculture: Life for All**'

AGREE

- That Ecological Organic Agriculture and Agroecology play a key role in sustainable development, food security, poverty reduction, environmental security, climate change adaptation, human health, preservation of indigenous knowledge, biodiversity of plant varieties and animal breeds, as well as socio-cultural development.
- Several research results confirm that proper adoption of organic agriculture practices can significantly increase yields and improve life for all in Africa.
- Ecological Organic Agriculture is climate smart, as they produce lower emissions and also provide much greater resilience in times of climate extremes such as drought and heavy rains.
- Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) plays an important role in fulfilling the African Union's Agenda 2063 and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the transformation of national and regional economies.

WE APPLAUD the great efforts made by all national, regional and international organizations to support the development of Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa.

RECALLING

- That Africa subscribes to the United Nations' SDGs, especially number 1 and 2
- The commitment of African governments in support of the African Union Agenda 2063.
- That ECOWAS member states align with the African Union Agenda 2063 and its potentials for sustainable agricultural development in the region through the promotion of Ecological Organic Agriculture sectors.

WE RESOLVE THAT

All member countries within the ECOWAS region and beyond strive to develop a vibrant organic and ecological agriculture sector that contributes much to improve life for all – the ecosystems, biodiversity, lives and businesses and leave a flourishing legacy for future generations.

WE PLEDGE THAT

the organic sector, as presented during this conference, will work hard and in harmony to achieve the above resolution.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE

that some activities are already initiated in some countries to develop the required infrastructure, pre-conditions to achieve the above intent.

WE CALL FOR

1. The setting up of a knowledge management instrument for effective communication and exchange of innovative technologies in organic agriculture to be extended to all West African countries.
2. Holistic demand driven research activities to be initiated to address the challenges of stakeholders in ecological and organic agriculture sector in Africa, as well as appropriate sustainable technologies to upscale development in the sector.
3. Strengthening of national, regional and continental platforms and think-tanks for technology development in organic agriculture.
4. Appropriate platforms in West Africa to showcase and publicize technologies in organic agriculture developed, for the buying in of policy makers, organic stakeholders and the general public.
5. Appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations in West Africa to ensure efficient quality of organic produce/products through PGS certification for domestic markets in each country and inter-trade within the region.
6. Policy and mechanisms to scale up small scale organic farmers' production, market access and their contribution to designing appropriate strategies.
7. A consideration to ensure the new EU regulation 2018/848 does not restrict but promote the African smallholder farmers' access to the EU market.

WE URGE THAT

- Appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations in the region should ensure the setting-up of knowledge management systems for effective communication and exchange of innovative technologies in organic agriculture among stakeholders.
- National, regional and continental research bodies with focus on West Africa (including NOARA) should ensure holistic demand-driven research activities to address the challenges of stakeholders in Ecological and Organic Agriculture sector of Africa.
- ECOWAS Commission and national governments should strengthen appropriate organic and ecological platforms and think-tanks for technology development in organic agriculture in the region.
- Appropriate regional and national bodies in West Africa should support ICT infrastructural development for showcasing and publicizing technologies in organic agriculture in the region.
- Appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations in West Africa should ensure efficient quality of organic produce/product through certification programmes.
- Specific supports be given to networks of organic and ecological stakeholders in West Africa namely; West African Organic Network (WAfrONet), West Africa Cluster of Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative and International Network of Organic Farmers' Organizations

