

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CENTRE OF KENYA

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Kenya



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Creating sustainable

Development value for all

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CENTRE OF KENYA (OACK KENYA)

BACKGROUND

The founding idea for OACK-KENYA was/is a brain child dream of the current OACK-KENYA Executive Director: Stephen, who was studying in Natural resources Institute of the University for Greenwich in England, 1996. Stephen found organic produce and food being sold in Supermarkets and also being grown in the farms in England. This was the first time of Stephen to see organic produce sold in supermarkets. He then started buying organic produce for eating while in England. The whole event stimulated the need for Stephen to involve his brains to think about forming OACK-KENYA for sustainable community development back in Kenya. Common interest groups of farmers and OACK-KENYA subscribers conducted a trial project in 2005. As a result of the project success, Stephen started looking for a partner to register OACK-KENYA as an NGO together. Afterwards, the current Executive Director: Stephen N. Wainaina and Training Co-coordinator: David registered OACK-KENYA on 6th September 2006 at NGOS Co-ordination Board in Nairobi as non profit national NGO. It was registered to promote sustainable agriculture through training and working with the vulnerable small scale farmers for food security and alleviating hunger and poverty in Kenya and especially Murang'a South where training started.

Social, economic and environmental challenges also exposed indicators including, human suffering, unsustainable activities and poor use of natural resources among target farmers, that also convinced us to go on and form OACK-KENYA in order to help vulnerable target farmers- help- themselves after appropriate training and working on sustainable activities to help the targets to move themselves out of livelihood inequalities and poverty for good.

PHYSICAL LOCATION

Our organization is located in Kangari location, Kangari Division, in Kigumo District, of Murang'a County in Central Province of Kenya.

We are 35 kilometres from Nairobi to Thika and 65 kilometres from Thika to Kangari on Thika - Kangari -Njiris High school road.

OFFICE LOCATION

OACK-KENYA is located in Kangari sub-location and based in Kangari town near Unaitas Bank and Kangari Location Chief's Office.

ADDRESS

POSTAL ADDRESS : P.O BOX 69-10218, Kangari, Kenya

Email : info@aock.or.ke or bio_farming@yahoo.com

Website : www.aock.or.ke

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board of Directors includes 5 professionals drawn from fields of sustainable agriculture approaches, community development and management. The main duty is to direct on matters concerning policy of organization, fund raise, advise on staff hiring and pay structures according to labour laws.

Board of Directors includes:

1. Stanely Mburu Gathua – Chairman
2. Stephen N. Wainaina – Secretary and Executive Director
3. Iddah Wanjiku – Treasurer
4. Dianisio Ndegwa – Vice secretary
5. Ashphod Kamau – Vice chairman

The above officials have been elected by the members of the organization during annual general meeting. They do their work as stipulated in the constitution.

OACK-KENYA PROGRAMMES

1. Training small scale farmers in sustainable organic agriculture
2. Agroforestry programme
3. Seed saving and production
4. School gardening for food and nutrition security.

OUR PARTNERS, COLLABORATORS AND NETWORKS

1. Ministry of Agriculture
2. Mount Civil Society Networks
3. African Insect Science for Food and Health (ICIPE)
4. Infonet Biovision
5. Institute of Research in Organic Agriculture
6. Ecology Action
7. The Tudor Trust.
8. Kitchen Gardeners International
9. Pelum – Kenya
10. Kenya Organic Agriculture Network

11. Makomboki Tea Factory
12. Gacharage Tea Factory
13. Githambo Tea Factory
14. Ikumbi Tea Factory
15. Matara Tea Factory
16. Ministry of Education
17. Ministry of Health

Training small scale vulnerable tea farmers on sustainable agriculture for food security resilience and environmental sustainability

Target groups

- Small holder venerable farmers
- Women and men self help groups
- Schools
- Unregistered groups
- Youth and children
- Drug addicts
- Orphans, vulnerable and need children.

OACK-KENYA OPERATION AREAS

Murang'a
Thika
Nyeri
Kirinyaga
Maragua
Kandara
Nyandarua

OACK-KENYA STAFF

OACK-KENYA has fully skilled and experienced 6 staff members. These members work in various projects within OACK-KENYA.

LEVEL OF STAFF

1. Executive Director (CEO)

Administers, manages, supervises and oversees all projects and OACK-KENYA affairs as recommended by the construction in the organization.

2. Training Coordinator/ Trainer.

Co-ordinates all training programs within OACK-KENYA and doubles as a resource officer in education, information, research work and out reach.

3. Field Officers/ Trainers.

Creating awareness, recruitment, training, preparation of farmers' certificates, formation of target farmers groups, farmers' field schools formation and networking, running and supervising OACK-KENYA shop.

4. Administration and finance unit

This unit is managed by executive director, part time accountant with office assistant keeping records and who doubles as receptionist.

TRAINING SMALL SCALE VULNERABLE FARMERS PROGRAMME IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The programme has three training officers who usually train farmers after creating awareness. They also monitor the trained farmers afterwards.

Farmers field schools forums are used by the officers for training target farmers. Main aim is to help vulnerable farmers to help themselves in order to move out of food and nutrition insecurity and finally get out of poverty. OACK collaborates with ICIPE in participatory on-farm research with farmers groups.

AGROFORESTRY PROGRAMME

Since we have recently started raising plant seedlings in our nursery, we have put one facilitator to work with farmers on agroforestry. In fact we are fetching indigenous trees seeds and especially for endangered trees. We shall later on distribute the seedling to the community in order to sustain a health environment.

SEED SAVING AND PRODUCTION

Seed saving and production main aim is to encourage farmers to save seeds and especially our indigenous which are endangered by introduction of exotic and genetically modified seeds. For this programme we have one officer working with farmer groups.

SCHOOL GARDENING FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

This programme is carried out by two members of our staff and one teacher from each school. The fact is that primary school curriculum does not advance learning in agriculture and OACK-KENYA is advancing this program in order to access agriculture learning to primary school children who are our future farmers, denied learning agriculture by school curriculum.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

