

Household food security effects of certified organic export production in tropical Africa: Comments

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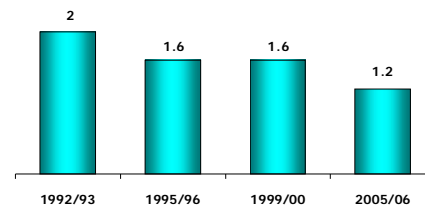
Key Task

- Provide comments on how the research findings may be used in national policy

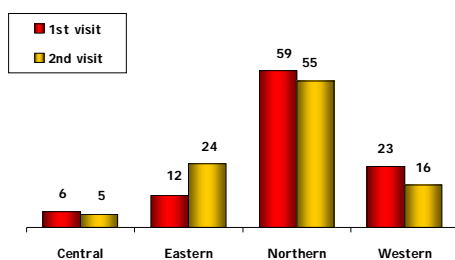
Organic vs Inorganic debate

- Research releasing fertiliser responsive seed varieties
- High level belief: Fert use is only strategy to lift millions of farmers out of food insecurity, hunger & meet MDGs
- **Evidence?: No country has ended subsistence culture, hunger & poverty without using fertilisers**
- Wheat fert//yield: India 7kg//800kg/ha cf UK 180//4,000
- Declining land:- from 2.0ha in 1992 to 1.2 ha in 2006
- Low fert use: >1kg/ha cf 10kg/ha in rest of SSA
- **Study result: increase in hld amount & quality of purchased food**

Average Land holding size (ha)



Fallow Parcels per Region (%)



Use of Agric inputs by region (%)

Region	Imprvd Seeds	Manure	Chemical Fertiliser	Pest+herb. fungicides
Central	5.49	8.72	1.30	4.83
Eastern	11.91	4.09	1.12	4.73
Northern	7.62	0.45	0.71	2.64
Western	2.15	9.63	0.64	1.49
Uganda	6.33	6.79	0.96	3.41

Issues, key findings and policy implications - 1

- PMA fs strategy based on guaranteeing hld income security to enhance access to food from the market
- ✓ **Org yield / price higher than conventional (coffee 33%)**
- ✓ Hld incomes for participating farmers increased
- ✓ **Improved food security through the market realised**
- ✓ Proportion of income spent on food reduced (20%)?
- ✓ **Adopted practices used to enhance food production**

Issues, key findings and policy implications - 2

- ✓ Need to empower hlds esp on the role of women in management of family generated income. Women ranked food purchases/food security higher than men
- ✓ **Decrease in food production due to organic conversion esp in coffee areas may put food security of vulnerable hlds at risk**
- Undertake similar study in other agroecological zones
- Undertake a nutrition survey esp. among children >5ys

What is government doing?

- Recognition that almost all of Uganda's agricultural production is by default 'Organic'
- **Appreciation of a growing 'niche' market for certified organic agric. products: \$13b in '98 - \$25b in 2005**
- Formulation of a national policy on Organic farming is on-going. Status: interactive consultations with stakeholders based at central & local government level planned for early 2009. **Nogamu to seize opportunity**
- Revising MAAIF DSIP and Preparing a 5-yr National Development Plan - NDP (to replace PEAP)

Concluding remarks on way forward

- Study is supported with comments made. Findings have implications for national policy
- **Organic farming stakeholders engage in on-going national policy processes (MAAIF, NARO, NPA)**
- Similar study be undertaken in other areas and also to compare cases outside contract arrangements as well as nutrition related aspects. Publicise results
- **Cost of production control and assurance of significantly higher premium prices need guarantee**

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