Rural Development with Organic Focus

Anne Bruntse – Formerly Infonet-Biovision Regional Coordinator
Crops/ fruits/ vegetables
Information on crop husbandry, Water and soil management, Preventive and curative pest and disease management

Pests/ diseases/ weeds
Description, identification and management of plant pests and diseases

Medicinal plants
Medicinal plants and their uses: Artemisia, Monia, Moringo, Neem, Ocimum kilimandscharicum, Pelargonium, Prunus africanius, Sutherlandia, Tamarind

Fruit and vegetable processing
Tomato preservation, Vegetable preserves.

Healthy food
Introduction, Digestive system, Fats, Proteins, Carbohydrates, Minerals, Micronutrients, Vitamins

Nutrition related diseases
Anemia, Aribostaviriosis, Beriberi, Constipation, Diabetes, Goiter, Gout, High Cholesterol, Hypertension, Indigestion

Osteoporosis, Peltagra, Peptic Ulcer Disease, Rickets/Osteomalacia, Vitamin A deficiency

Insect transmitted diseases
Malaria: integrated and preventive control (water management, bed-nets, medical treatment)

Zoonotic diseases
What are zoonoses,

Animal husbandry and welfare
Animal husbandry introduction, Animal welfare and organic certification norms for cattle, goats, chicken, pigs and sheep, Animal nutrition and feed rations, Record keeping

Livestock species and commercial insects
Information on husbandry and management by categories of domestic animals (Chicken, Camelo, Cattle, Cattle breeds, Donkeys, Fish, Geese, Goats, Pigs, Rabbits, Sheep) as well as information on Beekeeping and Sericulture

Livestock health and diseases

Agro-ecological zones
FAO System, Kenya System

Water management
Water cycle and rain, Rainwater harvesting, Shallow ground water, Water for domestic use, Water for irrigation, Community management of water sources, Water storage, Surveys, Designs and permits for water projects, Construction of water projects, Seeking funds, Water as business, etc

Soil management
Soil degradation, Soil conservation measures, How to improve soil fertility, Kenyan Soils, Soil monitoring - Know your soil

Sustainable and

Website Survey
We are conducting a survey to help us improve! When you have looked at the site, kindly return!
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click here to go to the survey
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April 2012 - 5th edition of infonet-biovision
We are pleased to announce the release of the 5th edition of biovision, available online and for download.
It is a great resource of scientifically and practic strengthening sustainable development of farmers in Africa by allowing them to access, use and share.

Besides updating the content, this latest edition content in 2-H areas. Under Human Health you can find Healthy Food additional sections on nutrition medicine and sanitation.
Outreach and Information Sharing

Work with Farmer Groups and CBOs through CIWs

Partnering with:
KARI, KEFRI, AIRC, iCow, Grameen Foundation, Uganda, SAT TZ, EOA
partners East Africa

Open for other partnerships as per interest

We use multiple Outreach methods and tools:
1. Print media
2. Web based database including offline CD database
3. Radio
4. Outreach through Information Hubs and Partners including, MoA, NGO’s, CBO’s
5. Mobile technologies
6. Video.
Why Organic and sustainable?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organic Farming</th>
<th>Chemical farming</th>
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<tr>
<td>Improves soil fertility</td>
<td>Does not usually improve soil fertility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improves health of families</td>
<td>Brings many carcinogenic and health challenging chemicals into our food chain</td>
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<td>Sequesters carbon into the soil</td>
<td>Removes carbon from the soil</td>
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<td>Encourages respect for life and biodiversity</td>
<td>Disregards biodiversity issues</td>
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<td>Preserves natural resources</td>
<td>Is heavy user of fossil fuels</td>
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<td>Believes that we and our food sources are all part of the same gene pool</td>
<td>Does not connect health issues to ways of farming</td>
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<td>Does not pollute and can assist in combatting global warming</td>
<td>Contributes up to 32% of global warming causes depending on reporting agency</td>
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Major Challenges in East Africa small scale farming – ref farming as a business

**Water**
- Unreliable rainfall patterns
- Reliable water supply
- Water for irrigation
- Irrigation equipment and technology

**Organisation**
- Segregated communities – men doing most of the talking and women doing most of the work
- Poor communication strategies
- Lack of awareness of benefits of working in groups and associations
- Lack of access to reliable and timely farming information
Major Challenges in East Africa small scale farming – ref farming as a business

**Health and Education**
- Education of children often major concern
- Family health and nutrition second major concern
- Poor access to up-to-date reliable farming and market information
- Poor awareness and access to improved technologies

**Markets**
- Depend on middle men
- No organised market structures apart from some milk value chains in places
- Value chains not organised most places
- No certainty about pricing structures when planning farm production
Role of Research in building Organic and Sustainable Agriculture as a business

**Improve technologies**

+ **Plant breeding** to get varieties resistant to important pests and diseases
+ **Soil fertility improvement** – huge improvements possible with simple management means
+ **Technology improvement.** Improve engineering solutions to cater for needs of small scale farmers
+ **Integration of livestock** and feeding regimes

**Problems with scientists**

+ **Ivory towerism**
+ **After publishing their research** – it is not shared widely
+ **Lack of respect for farmers**
+ **At times seem to reinvent the wheel over and over**
+ **Research could be more geared towards solving felt needs in rural areas.**
Role of research and extension

Innovation platforms

Envisioned role of research
Example of experience of one organic farmer

**Example**

Mary Wnajiru Kamau from Muranga changed to organic farming 5 years ago. Since then her high blood pressure has normalised, other health challenges disappeared, so that now she is able to single handedly manage her 4 acre farm and makes much better returns than when farming conventionally.

**Farmer statement: Going Organic is like returning to Eden**
Biovision Vision:
An environmentally sustainable world with sufficient healthy nutrition for all, controlling climate locally and globally