



CALL FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

RESEARCH TRACK OF THE 5TH AFRICAN ORGANIC CONFERENCE (AOC) December 12 - 15, 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda

About the conference

The African Organic Network (AfrONet), an umbrella body of organic agriculture actors in Africa representing the National and Regional Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs/ROAMs) is organizing the 5th African Organic Conference (AOC) in Kigali, Rwanda for four (4) days from December 12 - 15, 2023 in collaboration with the organic agriculture actors in Africa, the African Union Commission and other strategic organizations outside Africa. The multistakeholder-event shall be concluded with the General Assembly of the Network.

The AOC is held every 3 years. The 4th AOC was held in November 2018 at Sally, Senegal. The 3rd AOC was held in Lagos, Nigeria in October 2015. The 2nd AOC was in Lusaka, Zambia in May 2012 while the 1st AOC was held in Kampala, Uganda in 2009. The 5th AOC (5th AOC) which was scheduled to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco in November 2021, could not be convened due to circumstances beyond our control. Enforcing the resolution of the 4th AOC, the Board of AfrONet gave Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM), as a run-up to FIMABio of Morocco to host the 5th AOC. At an Extraordinary virtual General Assembly of AfrONet members in March 2023, the 5th AOC was rescheduled to hold in Kigali, Rwanda from 12 - 15 December 2023. Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement is hosting the event in Rwanda on behalf of AfrONet in both physical and virtual modes.

The theme of the conference is **"Strengthening Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa Through Organic Agriculture"**.

The first two days of the conference shall constitute information exchange through presentations covering various topics. These will be presented in the Policy, Farmers', Value Chain and Marketing, and Research Tracks. The third day will be dedicated to field visits to renowned organic farms, value addition, marketing, and other facilities, as well as side meetings. The fourth day will be reserved for the AfrONet General Assembly.

Objectives of the Conference

- i) To bring together organic stakeholders to a conference to discuss organic agriculture developments, progress, and challenges encountered in Africa since the last AOC held in Sally, Senegal.
- ii) To share information about the benefits of organic agriculture and its contribution to the economies, human health, soil health, climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience building.
- iii) To strategize mechanisms for awareness creation and dissemination of Organic agriculture benefits and facts to stakeholders and communities across Africa.
- iv) To highlight salient issues for strategizing actions for the development of organic agriculture for the next three years.
- v) To influence research and extension, financing opportunities, policy, and institutionalization of Organic Agriculture through relevant organizations across the continent including the African Union Commission, UNEFAO, development partners, regional bodies, national governments, and the private sector, etc.
- vi) To enhance understanding of the role of Agroecology in Ecological and Organic Agriculture.
- vii) To support harmonization of approaches and promote intra-Africa collaborations and trade

SCOPE/FOCUS OF THE 5th AFRICAN ORGANIC CONFERENCE (AOC)

The theme of the 5th AOC shall be addressing organic agriculture and agroecology issues relating to the following fields: Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Extension, Agroforestry, Agroecology, Animal science, Crop/Environmental protection, Crop science/Horticulture, Environmental Sciences, Fishery/Aquaculture, Nutrition, Pharmacy, Soil science, Veterinary Medicine, Wildlife Management and other relevant fields. It will also provide opportunities to showcase results of individual, institutional, national, regional and continental projects, in the areas of organic agriculture and agroecology addressing the sub-themes below:

1. Collaborative and innovative research for resilient food production and food security in Africa
2. Sustainable Food System and Value Chain Development through Organic Agriculture and Agroecology
3. Strengthening Nutrition and Health of stakeholders through Organic Agriculture and Agroecological practices
4. Social and Environmental Protection of Human and Ecosystem in Africa
5. Economic and Agribusiness opportunities in Organic Agriculture and Agroecology

CONFERENCE FEES

Early bird Registration (before 30th October, 2023)

Event	Virtual (USD)	Physical (USD)	Virtual (Rwandan franc)	Physical Rwandan franc)
	International		National	
Individual participants (with certification of participation)	90	225	106,785.00	266,962.50
Students (Masters and below with valid evidence)	18	90	21,357.00	106,785.00
Exhibition	180	270	237,300.00	320,355.00
Side events/ day (organizations or groups)	450	900	N/A	N/A

Regular Registration

Event	Virtual (USD)	Physical (USD)	Virtual (Rwandan franc)	Physical Rwandan franc)
	International		National	
Individual participants (with certification of participation)	100	250	118,650.00	296,625.00
Students (Masters and below with valid evidence)	20	100	23,730.00	118,650.00
Exhibition	200	300	237,300.00	355,950.00
Side events/ day (organizations or groups)	500	1,000	N/A	N/A

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Account Name: AFRICAN ORGANIC NETWORK

IBAN: 02804900020

Bank Name: BANK OF AFRICA – TANZANIA

Account Type: EUR

Bank Code: EUAFTZTZ

For group registration at national level, please contact NOARA Secretariat at noaraafrica@gmail.com to get in touch with the Country Contact Person of NOARA in your country

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE 5TH AOC

The following are the expected participants and beneficiaries of the Conference:

- Actors along the value chain of organic agriculture
- Researchers and students within and outside Africa focusing on Organic Agriculture and Agroecology issues in Africa
- Continental and regional governments
- Policy makers from national and regional Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Trade and other related governmental agencies in Africa
- Projects, NGOs, Community-based organizations (CBOs) within and outside Africa
- Journalists

CALL FOR PAPER/MANUSCRIPT PRESENTATIONS

The Network of Organic Agriculture Researchers in Africa (NOARA) leading the research track of the conference therefore invites multistakeholder-actors of organic agriculture value chain within and outside Africa to submit presentations of their research findings, innovations and success stories on Organic Agriculture and Agroecological practices. All these aiming at showcasing how these interventions are contributing to strengthening resilience in climatic conditions and food security in Africa. Below are the guidelines for scientific manuscript submission for the event. Appropriate presentations addressing the theme and topics under sub-themes of the conference are requested.

Please note that only those duly registered for the conference shall be allowed to present papers or posters during the event.

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

First step: Abstract not more than 250 words (double spacing, Times New Roman and font 12) should be submitted to noaraafrica@gmail.com

Deadline – October 30, 2023

Second step: Full papers of accepted Abstracts to be submitted at <http://publications.noara.bio>. and noaraafrica@gmail.com on or before 15 November, 2023.

Please note that all finally accepted manuscripts will be published in the Conference Proceedings, while those evaluated acceptable for journal publication will have the opportunity to be published in the African Journal of Organic Agriculture and Ecology (AJOAE).

AUTHORS' GUIDELINE FOR 5TH AFRICAN ORGANIC CONFERENCE (AOC) MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Preparation of manuscripts

- Articles could be written in either English or French with moderate technical terminologies to facilitate wide readership.
- All manuscripts should be typed, Times New Roman (12), 1.5 spacing on A4 size (210 x 297mm) paper.

- The length of the manuscript should in general not exceed 10 pages (tables, figures and other illustrations inclusive).
- Leave ample margins, 2.54 cm to the left and 2.54 cm to the top and bottom of the page.
- The cover page should contain (a) Title of the article (b) Author(s) name and affiliation(s) followed by correspondence email address and phone number (c) Abstract of not more than 250 words with relevant keywords (maximum of 5).
- The manuscript should be organized as follows: Title, Abstract, Introduction, Aims/Objectives, Materials and Methods (or Methodology), Results, Discussion (or Results and Discussion), Conclusion and Recommendations and References.
- The main headings should be centered and typed in sentence case letters while tertiary headings should be to the left of the page.
- Use only the international system of Unit (SI) and ensure that units are quantitative measurements, e.g. 3kg; when they are preceded by a capitalized noun, e.g. Table 8.
- Tables and figures should be numbered in Arabic numerals, cited in the text, sources indicated if not original (i.e. not made by the author).
- Each table and figure should have an explanatory legend, which should be typed at the bottom of the page.
- Reference citation in the text should follow the name, years system; all references cited must be listed in alphabetical order of the sole/senior/first author's names; each reference should be systematic and should comply with APA Style i.e surname of the author(s) and initials; year of publication (in parenthesis), title of paper, name of Journal/source of paper (italicized), volume number, number of issue (if applicable) in Arabic numerals on the first and the last pages of the references, e.g. Lawale A.A. (1991). "A Descriptive Analysis of Agriculture Cooperative Model in Rural Development". Journal of Rural Development and Administration. 23 (3):1-8

For the citation of books, the author's name comes first followed by year of publication in bracket, title of book (underlined), edition and volume number (if any) page or pages, city of publication and publishers e.g. Fredick, G. B. (1970). Principles of Educational and Psychological Testing. 468 pp. Illinois: The Dryden Press Inc.

For a chapter in a book, e.g. Pickering, D. C. (1978) "An overview of agricultural extension and its 6 linkages with agricultural research". The World Bank experience. In: Agricultural Extension Worldwide: Issues, Practices and Emerging Priorities (eds.) Rivera, W. M. and Schram, W. G.) 320 pp. New York: Cron Helm.

