

Stakeholders in Tanzania have identified 6 intervention packages with catalytic impact across multiple NEOAS strategic objectives for food systems transformation

1.



2. Bring EOA Knowledge to smallholder farmers

3.



4.



5.



6.



Intervention package 2

Bring Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Knowledge to smallholder farmers



Package goal

Enhance farmer access to EOA knowledge to improve yields, and food & nutrition security, while reducing costs, improving incomes, and accelerating farm transition.



Overall package intervention

Upscale peer-to-peer and research-to-farmer dissemination of best EOA practices.



Why this intervention?

The intervention to upscale peer-to-peer facilitation under the “Bring EOA Knowledge to Smallholder Farmers” package aims to improve yields, food security, and incomes while reducing costs and accelerating farm transitions. Peer-to-peer training approaches like Farmers’ Family Learning Groups (FFLG), Farmer Field Schools, and demonstration plots have proven effective in disseminating the best EOA practices. This approach has a direct positive impact on both people and the planet, enhancing sustainable agricultural practices and community resilience. Experience and research show these methods increase knowledge retention and adoption rates among farmers. With multi-year investments and strategic collaboration, there is an opportunity to spread these best practices nationwide, supported by NEOAS’s policy support and market development. We invite collaboration to expand this initiative, transforming smallholder farming across Tanzania.



Impact on broader goals

This intervention has positive impacts on the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including multiple outcomes prioritized in the Tanzania Agricultural Master Plan: Food and nutrition security, Reducing poverty, improved farm yields and productivity, and improved sustainability, climate resilience, and nature-smart practices and systems. In particular, this intervention contributes directly to core elements of the Master Plan Flagship 12 (establishment of required refresher programs of extension officers), as well as Flagship 3 (contribution to action plans and national soil degradation assessments and development of climate-smart practices supported by incentives).

This package focuses on NEOAS strategic objective SO1 “Enhance the capacity of institutions for research, training and extension systems in developing and disseminating appropriate EOA technologies and practices”, but also contributes to objectives on opportunities for women, youth, and indigenous peoples, value chain development (SO6), accessibility of inputs, improved compliance with market standards (SO5) and, above all, knowledge dissemination to smallholder farmers (SO1).

The intervention focuses on upscaling peer-to-peer and research-to-farmer best practices, which is aligned with the “Systems-Level Implementation” lever and identified by the RAFT collaboration. By increasing capital, capacity, and technical assistance for transitioning farmers and scaling EOA technologies, it contributes to the long-term development of local governance processes, capacity, and institutions.



Priority actions requiring multi-year investments

- Upscale effective peer-to-peer training approaches (e.g. Farmer Field Schools, Farm Family Learning Groups, demonstration plots/farms) to cover all districts.
- Train extension staff nationwide (both governmental and private extension officers) on EOA by an ecosystem of actors from Civil Society Organizations.
- Design future systems for the flow of needs to research, knowledge co-creation, and dissemination.



Cost

Stakeholders have estimated the cost for the initial implementation of the priority actions in this intervention package is 800,000 USD for the 2025-2027 period (to be validated by the Implementation Task Force). This cost is part of the estimated budget for the strategic objective “Enhance the capacity of institutions for research, training and extension systems in developing and disseminating appropriate EOA technologies and practices (SO1)”, which is 3.9 million USD for the entire implementation period 2025-2030.



Stepping stones (Short-term initiatives that can jump-start this strategic area)

- Review existing EOA research initiatives.
- Identify research, capacity, and training gaps/challenges across EOA value chains.
- Design strategy for upscaling peer-to-peer methods to cover all districts.
- Develop training resources for lead farmer training.

Stepping stone initiative cost for 12 months: 100,000 USD



Who will be implementing this intervention

Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania will take the lead in this intervention, collaborating with the Sokoine University of Agriculture, University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute, TOAM, Pelum Tanzania, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, President’s Office - Regional Administration and Local Government.



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