

SIXTH AFRICAN ORGANIC CONFERENCE [6OAC]

1ST - 4TH DECEMBER 2026 IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background and Context

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 6th African Organic Conference (AOC) and General Assembly in Lusaka, Zambia from November 1 - 4, 2026. The Conference is a collaborative effort with the organic agriculture actors in Africa, the African Union Commission and other strategic organizations outside Africa. The General Assembly is a triennial meeting of legitimate AfrONet members.

The AOC is held every 3 years. The 5th AOC was held in December, 12 -15 in Kigali, Rwanda. 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 in Rwanda appointed Organic Producers' & Processors' Association of Zambia [OPPAZ] to host the 6th AOC in Lusaka. Therefore, OPPAZ will host the event in Zambia on behalf of AfrONet in both physical and virtual modes.

2. Venue, Duration and Nature of the Conference

The 6th AOC shall be held in Lusaka, Zambia for four days between 1st - 4th November, 2026. It shall be three pronged. The first prong shall carry the first two days for information exchange through presentations of various topics in four tracks, namely 1) Policy, 2) Farmers', 3) Value Chain and Marketing, and 4) Research Tracks. The third day shall be set aside for the second prong for side events and meetings, business discourses and field visits to renowned organic farms, value addition, marketing, and other facilities. The fourth day will be reserved for the AfrONet General Assembly as the third prong.

3. Theme of the Conference

The theme of the conference is “***Building up resilient agri-food systems and ensuring the right to food in Africa through organic farming***”.

The theme premises that organic farming, being an affordable farming system blending indigenous knowledge and scientifically proven technologies, is well placed to increase output of a diverse range of quality products to assure continuous availability of safe food, balanced nutrition and industrial raw materials. The theme shall be broken down to cover sustainable production, food security and nutrition, resilient food systems, involvement of the women, youth and other disadvantaged social categories in the phase of the changing climatic condition. The idea is to get clarity in the kind of knowledge, practices, attitudes, skills and innovations as well as actions [solution] for adoption, adaptation, scaling-up and or scaling out in order to achieve resilient agri-food systems and solid agribusiness base embracing national, continental and overseas trade.

4. Objectives of the Conference

Participants will interact through debate of paper presentations, product exhibits and field trips to identify actions for organic agriculture to actualize resilient agri-food systems with positive contribution towards the achievement of the right to food in Africa. The desired food systems shall embrace cultural and social sensitivities, fairness in accession of factors of production and in sharing of benefits. They shall also suggest adaption and mitigation actions to climate change and other environmental vagaries. Positive stakeholder involvement especially by private commercial and the public sector would be necessary to forester appropriate partnerships with especially smallholder farmers through various schemes enabling full supply chain development from farm to fork. Farmer-managed organizations could be necessary for achieving equitable share of the proceeds.

The chief objective of the Conference is to find solutions for ensuring food security and nutrition in Africa embracing production and marketing of livestock and food, fibre and medicinal plants.

The specific objectives of the conference are:

- i. To convene a conference of organic stakeholders to discuss the developments, progress, and challenges encountered in Africa since the last AOC held in Kigali.

- ii. To share information on tangible benefits organic agriculture has contributed to national, regional and continental economies, human health, soil health, abatement of climate change and building resilience.
- iii. To strategize mechanisms for promotion of the adoption of organic agriculture by stakeholders and communities in Africa.
- iv. To motivate active private and public sector involvement in the development of organic agriculture as well as its institutionalization [through relevant organizations including the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, UNFAO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, development partners across the continent, regional bodies, national governments, and the private sector, etc.].
- v. To enhance understanding of the role of Agroecology in Organic Agriculture.
- vi. To support harmonization of approaches, regional integration and promote intra-Africa collaborations and trade.

5. Programs and Leading Organizations

The conference is constituted of the following tracks with lead organizations that shall anchor activities of each track of the conference representing the multi- stakeholder platform of organic agriculture in Africa

1. Farmers track lead by Inter-Continental Network of Organic Farmer Organizations (INOFO - Africa)
2. Research led by Network of Organic Agriculture Researchers in Africa (NOARA)
3. Trade/Exhibition led by the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN).
4. Policy led by the African Union Commission Continental Secretariat of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative.

6. Committees of the Conference

The following two committees working together are in charge of planning the conference:

- a) Continental Planning Committee (CPC) – This committee under the leadership of AfrONet is comprised of Board members and Secretariat staff of AfrONet. Others are the CEO of OPPAZ/Chair, Secretary and

Treasurer of the LOC, two representatives each from conference track leading organizations, representatives of strategic international partners, two representatives from AUC/EOA Continental Secretariat, one rep of regional organic movements (Central, Eastern, Northern, Southern and West Africa), Convener of past four AOCs. The CPC is in charge of overarching activities of the conference.

- b) Local Organizing Committee (LOC) – This committee under the leadership of OPPAZ is composed of strategic stakeholders across the value chain of organic agriculture in Zambia and representatives of appropriate governmental ministries in Zambia.

7. Participation fees

7.1. Early Bird Catches the Worm Fees (Deadline 30th September 2026)

Event	Virtual	Physical	Virtual	Physical
Category	International/US\$		National/ZMK	
Individual participants (with certification)	100	225	500	1,000
Students (up to master's level)	20	90	100	200
Exhibition	180	270	650	1,300
Side events/day (organizations / groups)	450	900	NA	NA

7.2. Regular Fees (Deadline 30th October 2026)

Event	Virtual	Physical	Virtual	Physical
Category	International/US \$		National - ZMK	
Individual participants	125	250	1,350	3,050
Students (Up to Masters level)	25	100	300	1,215
Exhibition	200	300	2,400	3,645
Side events/day (organizations or groups)	500	1,000	6,100	12,150

8. Participants and Beneficiaries

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

1. Actors along the value chain of organic agriculture
2. Researchers and students within and outside Africa focusing on Organic agriculture and Agroecology issues in Africa
3. Continental, regional and national governments
4. Policy makers from national and regional Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Trade, Livestock, Fisheries and other related governmental agencies in Africa
5. Projects, NGOs, Community-based organizations within and outside Africa
6. Media personnel, Journalists, etc.