



6TH AFRICAN ORGANIC CONFERENCE (6AOC) PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Dates: 1–4 December 2026 | **Venue:** Mika Convention Centre, Lusaka, Zambia

Theme: *Building resilient agri-food systems and ensuring the right to food in Africa through organic agriculture*

Part 1: Summary Programme

Day 1: Tuesday, 1 December 2026 – Inauguration and Strategic Framing

- **07:30 – 08:50:** Delegate Arrival and Registration
- **08:50 – 10:30:** Inauguration Ceremony and VIP Opening
- **10:30 – 11:00:** Refreshment Break, Group Photo and Press Briefing
- **11:00 – 13:00: Plenary I:** Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems
- **13:00 – 14:00:** Lunch Break
- **14:00 – 16:00: Track Sessions Block 1:** Parallel Sessions (Tracks A, B, C, D)
- **16:00 – 17:00:** Daily Track Synthesis Roundtable (Main Hall)
- **17:00 onwards:** Welcome Reception and Cultural Evening

Day 2: Wednesday, 2 December 2026 – Deep Dive into Evidence and Economics

- **08:30 – 09:00:** Welcome Coffee and Delegate Networking
- **09:00 – 11:00: Plenary II:** Policy Experiences and Continental Standards
- **11:00 – 11:30:** Refreshment Break and Structured B2B Exhibition
- **11:30 – 13:00: Track Sessions Block 2:** Parallel Sessions (Tracks A, B, C, D)
- **13:00 – 14:00:** Lunch Break
- **14:00 – 16:00: Track Sessions Block 3:** Parallel Sessions (Tracks A, B, C, D)
- **16:00 – 17:00:** Daily Track Synthesis Roundtable (Main Hall)
- **17:00 onwards:** Free Evening and Structured B2B Matchmaking

Day 3: Thursday, 3 December 2026 – Market Integration and Continental Resolutions

- **08:30 – 09:00:** Welcome Coffee and Delegate Networking
- **09:00 – 11:00: Plenary III:** Marketing, Trade, and Value Addition
- **11:00 – 11:30:** Refreshment Break and Structured B2B Exhibition
- **11:30 – 13:00: Track Sessions Block 4:** Parallel Sessions (Tracks A, B, C, D)
- **13:00 – 14:00:** Lunch Break
- **14:00 – 15:30:** Side Events and Regional Network Meetings
- **15:30 – 17:00: Official Closing Ceremony and Valedictory Session**
 - Presentation and Adoption of the "Lusaka Declaration"
 - Closing Address by the Minister of Agriculture, Zambia
 - Official Voting Procedure and Announcement of the 7th AOC Host Country
- **17:00 onwards:** Public Conference Programme Concludes

Day 4: Friday, 4 December 2026 – Field Context and Continental Governance

- **07:30 – 13:00: Continental Field Visits** (Excursions to PGS initiatives, organic farms, and processing hubs)
- **13:00 – 14:00:** Return to Venue and Lunch Break
- **14:00 – 18:30: AfrONet General Assembly** (Closed Statutory Governance Session)
- **18:30 onwards:** General Assembly Adjournment and Farewell Dinner

Detailed Technical Programme

Day 1: Tuesday, 1 December 2026 – Inauguration and Strategic Framing

- **07:30 – 08:50 | Delegate Arrival and Registration**
- **08:50 – 10:30 | Inauguration Ceremony (Main Hall)**
 - *08:50 – 09:15:* Welcome Remarks (AfrONet President and OPPAZ Chair)
 - *09:15 – 09:35:* Welcome Address (Minister of Agriculture, Zambia)
 - *09:35 – 10:00:* Keynote Address and Official Opening (The Republican Vice President of Zambia)
 - *10:00 – 10:30:* VIP Tour of Exhibition Booths and Poster Area
- **10:30 – 11:00 | Refreshment Break, Official Group Photo and Press Briefing**
- **11:00 – 13:00 | Plenary I: Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems (Main Hall)**
 - *Moderator:* [Confirmed CPC Nominee]
 - *11:00 – 11:10 (10 mins):* Moderator's Framing and Objectives
 - *11:10 – 11:30 (20 mins):* **Keynote 1 (Continental Framework):** Implementing the Kampala CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035): Implications for Organic Agriculture and Resilient African Agrifood Systems [Speaker: African Union Commission Representative]
 - *11:30 – 11:50 (20 mins):* **Keynote 2 (Scientific Evidence):** Applied Research and Agroecological Innovations [Speaker: ASARECA/ISO FAR / FARA Representative]
 - *11:50 – 12:10 (20 mins):* **Keynote 3 (Grassroots Action):** Farmer-Led Seed Systems and Production Resilience [Speaker: INOFO Representative]
 - *12:10 – 12:50 (40 mins):* Moderated Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A
 - *12:50 – 13:00 (10 mins):* Synthesis of Key Recommendations for the Declaration Drafting Team
- **13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break and Poster Viewing**
- **14:00 – 16:00 | Track Sessions Block 1 (Concurrent Thematic Rooms – 120-Minute Standard Block)**
 - *Time Budget:* 1 Lead Presentation (20 mins) + 4 Selected Papers (10 mins each = 40 mins) + Moderated Q&A (40 mins) + Transition and Written Synthesis (20 mins)
 - **Track A (Farmers – INOFO):** Subtheme 1.1: Scaling climate-resilient organic production systems and integrating indigenous farming knowledge
 - **Track B (Research – NOARA):** Subtheme 2.1: Empirical evidence on organic agriculture and agroecology for soil health and yield resilience
 - **Track C (Value Chain – KOAN):** Subtheme 3.1: Market Access and Intra-African Trade under AfCFTA

- **Track D (Policy – AU Commission EOA-I Initiative):** Subtheme 4.1: Continental Policy Frameworks and Kampala CAADP Alignment
- **16:00 – 17:00 | Daily Track Synthesis Roundtable (Main Hall)**
 - *Moderator:* Chair, Lusaka Declaration Task Force
 - *Format:* Rapid 5-minute briefings from Rapporteurs of Tracks A, B, C, and D, followed by moderated cross-track consensus debate to feed the overnight declaration draft
- **17:00 onwards | Welcome Reception and Cultural Evening**

Day 2: Wednesday, 2 December 2026 – Deep Dive into Evidence and Economics

- **08:30 – 09:00 | Welcome Coffee and Delegate Networking**
- **09:00 – 11:00 | Plenary II: Policy Experiences and Continental Standards (Main Hall)**
 - *Moderator:* [Confirmed AfrONet Executive]
 - *09:00 – 09:10 (10 mins):* Moderator's Framing and Introductions
 - *09:10 – 09:30 (20 mins):* **Keynote 1:** Regional Harmonization of Organic Standards and Verification [Speaker: ARSO / REC Representative]
 - *09:30 – 09:50 (20 mins):* **Keynote 2:** Mobilizing Public Procurement and Innovative Agribusiness Finance [Speaker: IFAD / AfDB Representative]
 - *09:50 – 10:10 (20 mins):* **Keynote 3:** Mainstreaming EOA into National Agricultural Investment Plans [Speaker: Host Government / Policy Lab]
 - *10:10 – 10:50 (40 mins):* Moderated Panel Debate and Audience Q&A
 - *10:50 – 11:00 (10 mins):* Synthesis and Declaration Action Points
- **11:00 – 11:30 | Refreshment Break and Structured B2B Exhibition Matchmaking**
- **11:30 – 13:00 | Track Sessions Block 2 (Concurrent Thematic Rooms – 90-Minute Standard Block)**
 - *Time Budget:* 1 Lead Presentation (15 mins) + 3 Selected Papers (10 mins each = 30 mins) + Moderated Q&A (30 mins) + Transition and Synthesis (15 mins)
 - **Track A (Farmers):** Subtheme 1.2: Empowering women and youth: Grassroots innovations and rural agribusiness
 - **Track B (Research):** Subtheme 2.2: Bridging the gap: Translating research into farmer-centred innovations
 - **Track C (Value Chain):** Subtheme 3.2: Value Addition, Processing, and Post-Harvest Technologies
 - **Track D (Policy):** Subtheme 4.2: Regional Regulatory Harmonization and Input Validation Protocols
- **13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break and Exhibition Walkthrough**
- **14:00 – 16:00 | Track Sessions Block 3 (Concurrent Thematic Rooms – 120-Minute Standard Block)**
 - *Time Budget:* 1 Lead Presentation (20 mins) + 4 Selected Papers (10 mins each = 40 mins) + Moderated Q&A (40 mins) + Transition and Synthesis (20 mins)
 - **Track A (Farmers):** Subtheme 1.3: Farmer-led adaptation strategies for climate change and biodiversity loss
 - **Track B (Research):** Subtheme 2.3 and 2.4: Socio-economic impacts, True Cost

- Accounting, and planetary health
- **Track C (Value Chain):** Subtheme 3.3: Conformity Assessment, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), and Traceability
- **Track D (Policy):** Subtheme 4.3 and 4.4: Institutional capacity development and organic mechanization incentives
- **16:00 – 17:00 | Daily Track Synthesis Roundtable (Main Hall)**
- *Focus:* Consolidating Day 2 technical recommendations for integration into the 2nd Working Draft of the Lusaka Declaration.
- **17:00 onwards | Free Evening and Dedicated B2B Deal-Rooms**

Day 3: Thursday, 3 December 2026 – Market Integration and Continental Resolutions

- **08:30 – 09:00 | Welcome Coffee and Delegate Networking**
- **09:00 – 11:00 | Plenary III: Marketing, Trade, and Value Addition (Main Hall)**
 - *Moderator:* [Confirmed KOAN / Trade Lead Representative]
 - *09:00 – 09:10 (10 mins):* Moderator's Framing and Introductions
 - *09:10 – 09:30 (20 mins):* **Keynote 1:** De-risking Private Sector Investment in Commercial Organic Value Chains [Speaker: Private Agribusiness CEO]
 - *09:30 – 09:50 (20 mins):* **Keynote 2:** Digital Marketplaces, Regional Trade Corridors, and Non-Tariff Barriers [Speaker: ITC / UNCTAD Trade Specialist]
 - *09:50 – 10:10 (20 mins):* **Keynote 3:** Youth and Women Leadership in Agri-Enterprise [Speaker: Confirmed Youth/Women Agripreneur Representative]
 - *10:10 – 10:50 (40 mins):* Moderated Panel Debate and Audience Q&A
 - *10:50 – 11:00 (10 mins):* Final Plenary Synthesis and Wrap-Up
- **11:00 – 11:30 | Refreshment Break and Final B2B Engagements**
- **11:30 – 13:00 | Track Sessions Block 4 (Concurrent Thematic Rooms – 90-Minute Concluding Block)**
 - *Focus:* Concluding presentations, pedometrics/data systems (Research Track 2.5), inclusive business models (Value Chain Track 3.4/3.5), and final track resolutions sign-off.
- **13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break**
- **14:00 – 15:30 | Side Events and Regional Network Working Sessions**
 - AfrONet Regional Clusters (East, West, Central, North, Southern Africa), NOARA Council, INOFO General Assembly Prep, and Partner Roundtables
 - *Note: The Lusaka Declaration Task Force finalizes the official declaration text during this window.*
- **15:30 – 17:00 | Official Closing Ceremony and Valedictory Session (Main Hall)**
 - *15:30 – 16:00:* Formal Presentation and Adoption of the "Lusaka Declaration" (Task Force Lead / AfrONet Secretariat)
 - *16:00 – 16:30:* Valedictory Address by the Guest of Honour (Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Zambia)
 - *16:30 – 16:50:* Formal Bidding, Member Voting, and Official Announcement of the 7th AOC Host Country

- 16:50 – 17:00: Vote of Thanks by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC Chair)
- **17:00 onwards | Public Conference Programme Concludes and Departures for Non-Voting Delegates**

Day 4: Friday, 4 December 2026 – Field Context and Continental Governance

- **07:30 – 13:00 | Continental Field Learning Excursions**
 - *Operational Routes:* Pre-assigned shuttle departures to designated Lusaka-region certified organic estates, PGS smallholder cluster hubs, and value-addition/processing plants. *Return transit strictly coordinated to arrive by 13:00.*
- **13:00 – 14:00 | Return to Venue and Lunch Break**
- **14:00 – 18:30 | AfrONet General Assembly (Closed Statutory Governance Session)**
 - *Location:* Dedicated Executive Boardroom
 - *Access:* Restricted to registered AfrONet Board, National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs), Regional Movements (ROAMs), and verified institutional voting delegates.
 - *Statutory Agenda:* Secretarial Activities Report, Audited Financial Statements, Approval of Motions, Election of the Continental Board, and Consideration of the 2027–2030 Strategic Framework.
- **18:30 onwards | General Assembly Adjournment**