



Ministry of Agro
Industry and Food
Security



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

TCP/MAR/3502: "Support for the development of organic farming and institutional capacity building in Mauritius"

The Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security is implementing the Technical Cooperation Programme: "*Support for the Development of Organic Farming and Institutional Capacity Building in Mauritius*", over two years (2015-2017), with a budget of USD 352 000 from the FAO.

Aims:

To enhance food security, food safety, rural development, sustainable livelihoods and environmental integrity through training, transfer of modern and conventional approaches as well as networking, building capacities in organic production, processing, certification and marketing in Mauritius

Expected outcomes:

To contribute towards strengthening national capabilities on organic agriculture in Mauritius through:

- Development of legal and institutional framework to support organic production management (i.e. formulation of regulations and required support to facilitate adoption of organic standard);
- Proposed institutional set up for establishment of accredited inspection and certification system for organic agriculture;
- Build capacity of researchers, technicians, agricultural extensionists, farmers, relevant NGOs and private sector in organic agriculture;
- Development of a national strategy and action plan to promote the production and support marketing of organic produce;
- Development of training manuals to support adoption of organic agriculture and;
- Demonstrate organic production and conduct field days to raise awareness in organic production and benefits of organic produce

Beneficiaries

A wide range of stakeholders comprising farmers, government officials, research and extension organizations, small manufacturing enterprises, service providers, private sector operators and NGOs among others.

For further info on organic farming, please contact the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security on: 212 0854 or visit the FAO website: www.fao.org



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**INFORMATION LEAFLET
ON ORGANIC FARMING**

What is Organic
Agriculture?

L`Agriculture

Biologique, C`est
Quoi?



L`agriculture
bio?

Biofarming?

This publication has been produced under the FAO sponsored TCP/MAR/3502: "*Support for the development of organic farming and institutional capacity building in Mauritius*", Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, Oct 2016

1.0 What is Organic Agriculture?

According to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) —the umbrella organisation for organic organisations worldwide, **Organic agriculture** is a production system that aims at sustaining the health of soils, ecosystems and people.

- The term '**organic**' refers to a **method of production**. Many of the techniques used (e.g. inter-cropping, rotation of crops, mulching, and integration of crops and livestock) are practiced under various agricultural systems, whilst restrictions are imposed upon the use of synthetic pesticides, antibiotics, synthetic fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, and growth hormones.



Various terms such as 'bio', 'eco', and 'organic' are used to refer to organic products. The term, 'bio/biological' prevails in French speaking countries, whereas English-speaking countries mostly use the term 'organic'.

- Under local conditions the term **Biofarming** is used to refer to Organic Agriculture

2.0 L` Agriculture Biologique, C` est Quoi?

L'agriculture biologique est un mode de production agricole spécifique respectueux de l'environnement, du bien-être animal et de la biodiversité.

Elle comprend des méthodes comme le recyclage des matières organiques, la rotation des cultures et la lutte biologique. Elle garantit la non-utilisation de produits chimiques de synthèse et d'organismes génétiquement modifiés (OGM).



- La production et la transformation des produits biologiques certifiés sont soumises à des règles très strictes, définies dans un cahier des charges, imposant notamment des contrôles réguliers par des organismes agréés et indépendants.