

# Organic Agriculture and the Green Economy

*Increasing food security*

*Generating environmental benefits*

A presentation to: UNEP PEP  
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Date: March 27, 2009



## The Need for **Sustainable** Agriculture

- Double challenge of food security and environmental stewardship
- IAAKST « the way the world grows its food will have to change radically to better serve the poor and hungry if the world is to cope with a growing population and climate change while avoiding social breakdown and environmental collapse »
- Therefore need for greater investment in **sustainable** agriculture
- Generate private and public benefits **jointly** – how?

# Sustainable Agriculture (Organic)

**Agricultural commodities**



**Environmental goods**



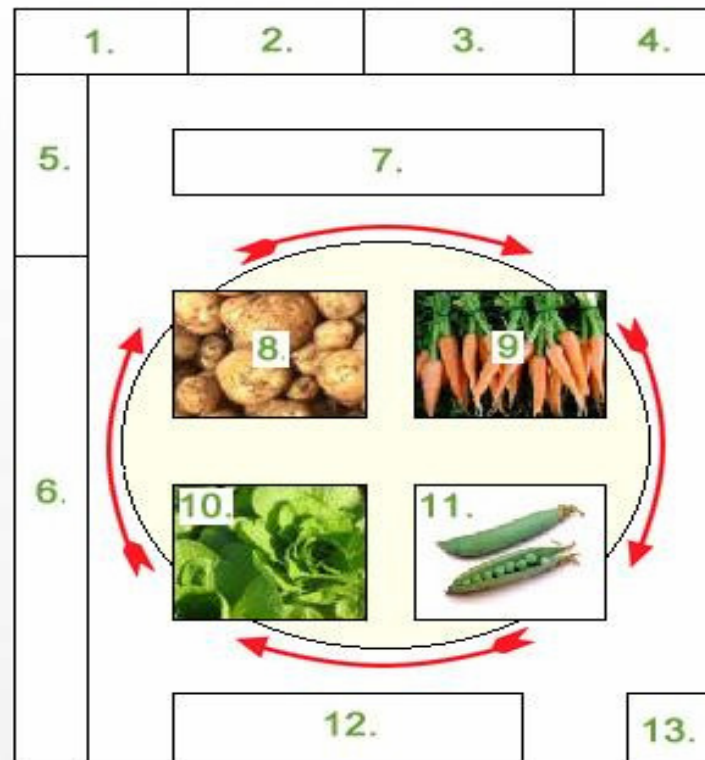
## What is organic?

- Production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity
- Key features

## No pesticides or agrochemicals



## Building soil structure and fertility through crop rotations (carbon sequestration)



And mulches and manures



## Socio economic benefits (private)

- Employment creation
- \$US 50 billion trade
- Integration of smallholders into the market

## Environmental benefits (public)

- Biodiversity
- Landscape
- Water and soil protection
- Carbon sequestration

## Strengthening organic agriculture in the tropics

- Coordinated policies
- Agricultural research
- Investment in « hard » and « soft » infrastructure
- Keeping standards open and fair

## Reflections for Green Economy

- Win wins are possible but government support necessary
- Consumer led demand (higher income groups)
- Mutual support feasible between trade and environment regimes (also EGS)

## References

- UNEP-UNCTAD (2008) *Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa*
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Thank you

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