

Improving Highland Organic Vegetable Profits

An opportunity
and
a strategic choice
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Content:

1. Burundi economic facts;
2. Food security;
3. Production and productivity;
4. National Strategy in Agriculture;
5. Role of Organic Agriculture;
6. OA an opportunity;
7. OA a strategic choice;
8. Conclusion.

1. Burundi Economic Facts

- GDP: USD 110;
- Poverty index: 75%;
- Population density: 310 / km²;
- Average annual population increase :3%;
- Average area per farmer: 0.5 ha
- Crop production growth: 2.3%;
- Acute malnutrition rate > 10% ;

2. Food security :

Food insecurity is likely to increase:

- Climate change;
- Degradation of natural resources (soil, forests);
- Droughts, floods, etc;
- Crop diseases and pests;

3. Production and productivity:

Production and productivity likely to be affected

- Poverty;
- Lack of seeds & seedlings (quality&quantity);
- Expensive inputs;
- Low manure production;
- Low access to credit;
- Weak extension services.

4.National Agricultural Strategy :

- poverty reduction;
- increased productivity;
- maximize the value of production;
- diversification of income opportunities;
- preservation and maintenance of natural and environmental resources.

5.Role of Organic Agriculture:

4 Principles of Organic Agriculture:

- Health: Healthy soils, crops, individuals, communities;
- Ecology: OA is based on ecological systems and cycles;
- Fairness: equity, respect, justice,
- Care: No chemical inputs, no GMO.

5.Role of Organic Agriculture (cont.):

Why Organic Agriculture?

- OA is affordable.
- OA is sustainable.

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6. OA an opportunity :

- A reliable way of food security;
- Increase water holding capacity of soils;
- Maintenance and improvement of groundwater;
- Biodiversity:
- Soil improvement;

6.OA an opportunity (cont.1):

- Enhancing social capital: team spirit, compliance with standards and regulation, collective management of natural resources, cooperatives, farmers capacity, etc;
- Set up & improvement of domestic and export premisses;
- Increase of income and Savings: no chemicals, natural inputs locally available, high prices of organic products, etc;
- Mitigation of global warming.

6.OA an opportunity : (cont.2):

An example of achievable performance in soil fertility:

- Humus increases 1% to 9% in 11 years;
- Nitrogen: 46 kg / ha to 123 kg / ha;
- Calcium 534 ppm to 3696 ppm;
- Magnesium 101 ppm to 391 ppm;
- Potassium 45 ppm to 230 ppm;
- Phosphorous the 123 ppm to 1561 ppm.

(According to Australian Perry Agricultural Laboratory)

7. OA a strategic choice :

- Organic Agriculture matches the Government strategic policy (CSLP II, SAN, PNIA,...);
- High demand of organic products and high prices;
- The most growing market;
- Possible resumption of non traditional exports;
- Differentiation;
- Eco tourism.

8. Conclusion:

- Highland organic fruits & vegetables can be innovative in the livelihood of the population;
- Many opportunities are offered for a sustainable food security;
- Organic Agriculture is better than conventional agriculture for small and poor farmers;
- OA is sustainable: It is a strategic choice.

Murakoze caane!

