

Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa. UNCTAD

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Organic agriculture is a sustainable and environmentally friendly production system that offers African and other developing countries a wide range of economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits. When the UNEP_UNTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development started its work on organic agriculture in East Africa in 2004, a key question repeatedly raised by public and private sector stakeholders in the region was to what extent organic agriculture can enhance food security in the African context. This paper was developed in response to that question. It examines the relationship between organic agriculture and food security in Africa, analysing organic agriculture's impact on food availability as well as natural, social, human, physical and financial capital in the region. Given the paper's origins, special attention has been given to East Africa throughout the paper, including analysis of 15 case studies. The conclusions and findings are, however, relevant for all African countries as well as many other developing countries around the world.

Full text: Organic Agriculture and Food Security in Africa