

# Implementation of a multi-criteria assessment of sustainability of smallholder organic and conventional farms in Kenya

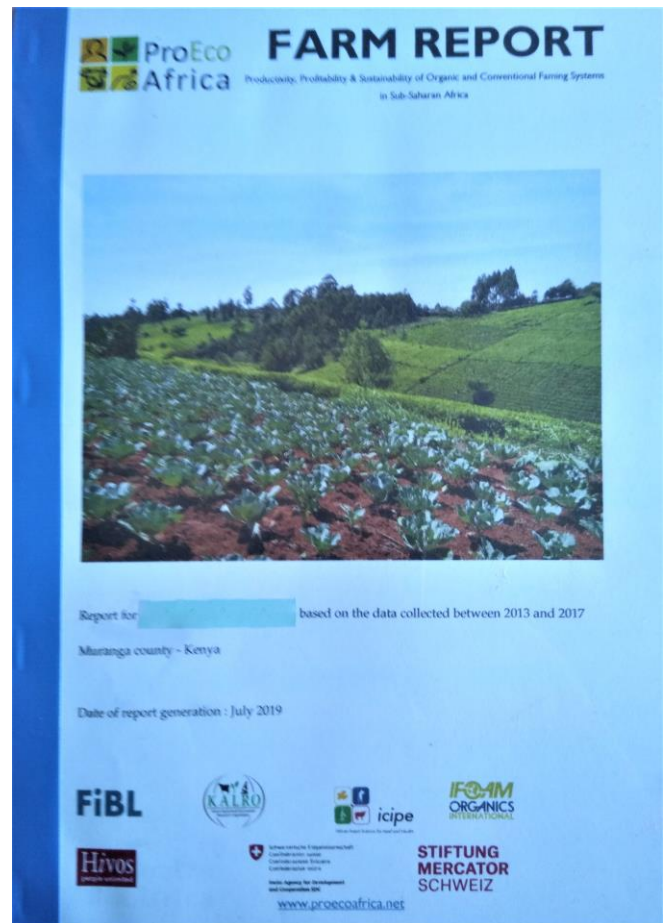


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- ### Introduction
- Organic agriculture is gaining importance in Kenya.[6]
  - Comprehensive assessments on the comparative sustainability of organic and conventional farming systems are still lacking[1,2,5].
  - The Organic Food Systems Africa (OFSA) project aimed to evaluate social, economic, environmental, and governance sustainability dimensions and to identify hotspots for sustainability improvements.
  - The Sustainability Monitoring Assessment RouTine (SMART) farm tool used as per FAO Guidelines for Sustainability Assessment in Food and Agriculture (SAFA) [3,4,7] .

- ### Objectives
- To evaluate the SMART farm tool as used in sustainability assessments in Murang’a, Machakos & Kirinyaga counties
  - Draw lessons in implementing the SMART farm tool for future improvement of tool and other studies

- ### Research Methods
- Study sites Kirinyaga, Murang’a, and Machakos Counties (864 organic and conventional farms)
  - Resource mobilization
    - Personnel (enumerator selection), staff/partners (OACK, MoALF, Limbua Group, site managers,
    - Research plans and budgets, data base
    - Equipment (laptops notebooks), vehicles
  - Training
    - In-house (2 weeks)
    - Practical on 15 farms and farm tours
  - Introduction and farmer sensitization meetings
    - Introduction to sustainability assessment
    - Introduce enumerators to farmers
    - What the enumerators will be doing
    - General discussions with Q&A sessions
  - Data collection and monitoring
    - Data verification and cleaning
    - Farmer feedback workshops



## Results/ Lessons

### Capacity development

15 Enumerators, 10 staff



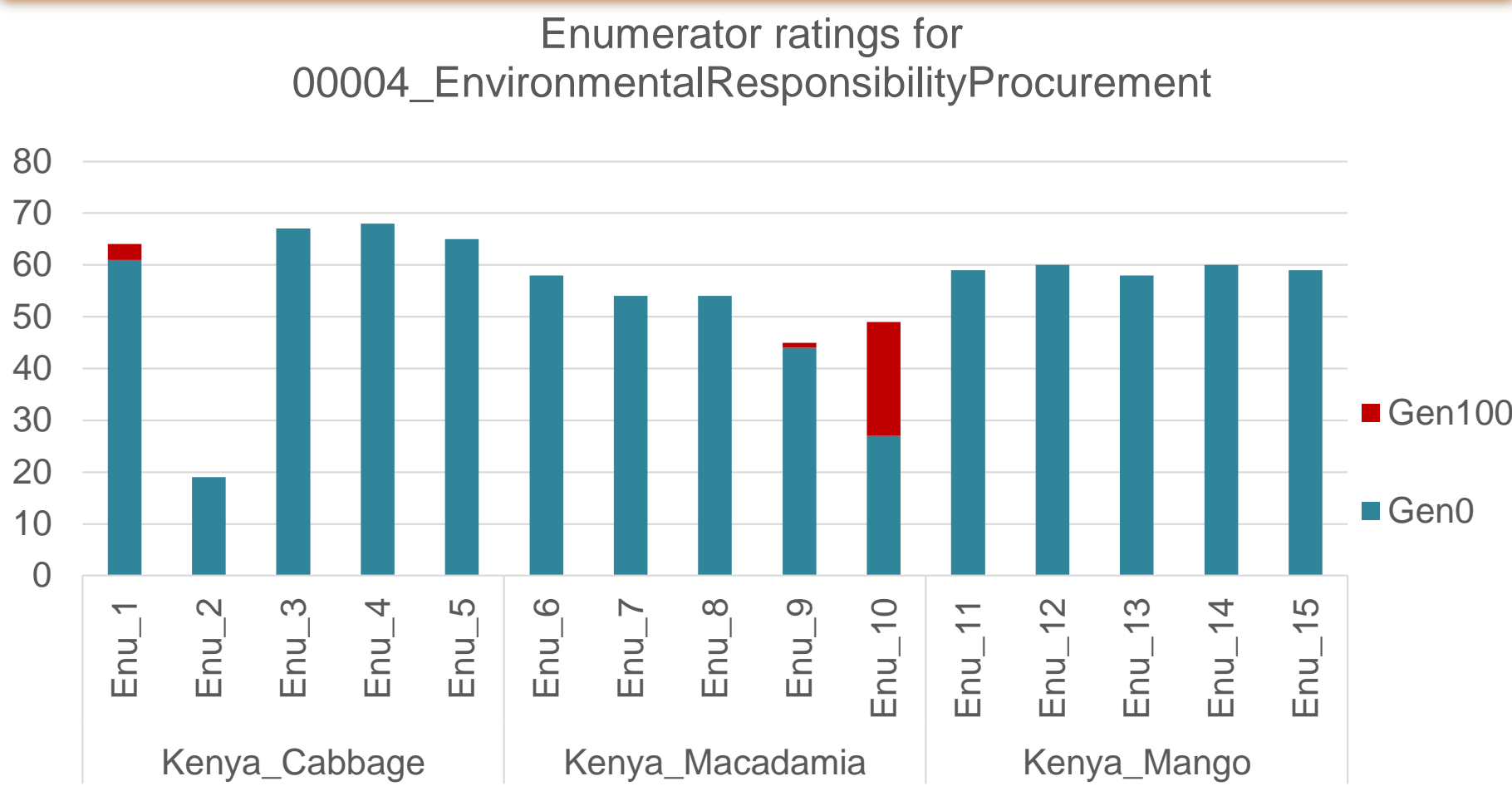
### Farm

Farmer interviews 2.5 -3 hours



Each enumerator about 2 farms each day for 3 months

### Data consistency and relevance check verification for 335 indicators



### Farmer feedback workshops



Farmers reading reports



### Opportunities

### Farmer record keeping training



### Monitoring and data collection progress



Resources required at each level to make each activities successful

Case Study	Initial No. of farmers	Final No. of Farmers	% Farmer Retention
Murang'a	300	286	95.3%
Kirinyaga	300	282	94.0%
Machakos	300	296	98.7%
Total	900	864	96.0%

A farmer retention rate of 96.0% was maintained (dropped out sold the land, death of household head and some not willing to continue)

## Lesson Learnt

- SMART farm tool proved to be useful for the Kenyan context. However, sufficient time, human and financial resources as well as good technical capacity and peer learning and exchanges are prerequisites for its successful use.
- Good collaboration with partners, flexibility to implement changes at different sites when needed, and good communication ensured delivery to target farms.

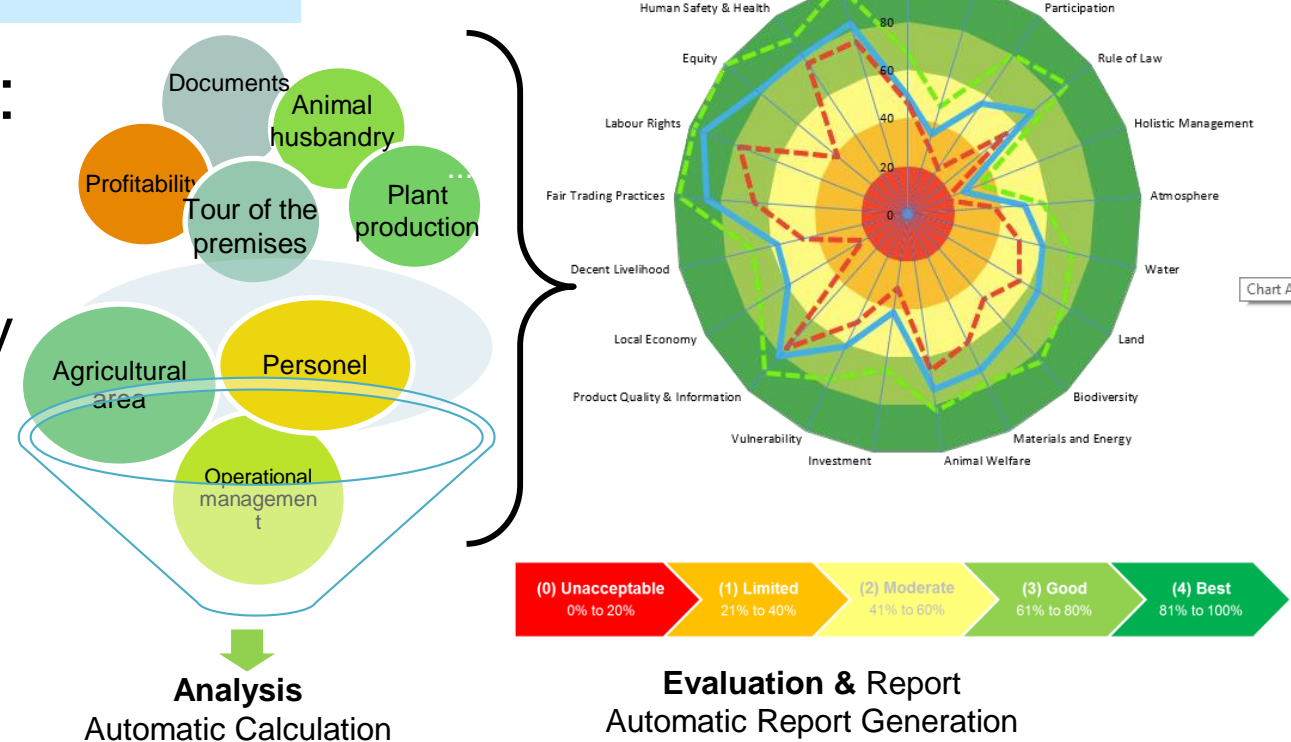
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## Next Steps

Performance of:

- Organic vs conventional
- Different sites, by gender etc.



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