

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE'S COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING 100% ORGANIC PRODUCTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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By Kim Assaël

São Tomé and Príncipe has around a quarter of its agricultural land dedicated to certified organic production, making it the African country with the highest percentage of its agricultural land devoted to organic production, and the third globally.



As [reported by FIBL and Organics International in 2025](#) "Sao Tome and Principe is the country with the highest organic area share in Africa; currently, 22.1% of the land is dedicated to organic production, thus making it on the world list of 22 countries with an organic area share of more than 10 percent of total farmland".

According to [Forbes Africa Lusofona](#) at present about 40% of agricultural products are certified organic. In the meantime, vegetables need to be added to the cocoa, coffee, pepper, palm oil and coconut oil that are already exported.

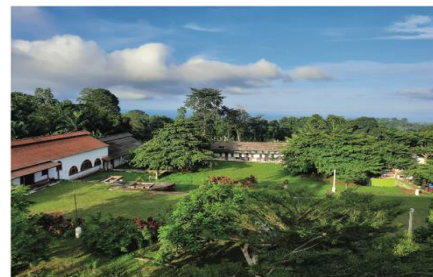
Since 2020 at São Tomé e Príncipe, the government is actively working to make all the country's agricultural production 100% organic.

The government of São Tomé and Príncipe recently approved the 100% Bio strategy, aimed at promoting and safeguarding organic and agroecological agriculture in the country by seeking partners to ensure that the products grown or added during the process comply with the standards established for 100% organic production.

São Tomé and Príncipe's commitment to sustainable organic and agroecological agriculture is continuous and consistent. Agriculture represents around 20% of the nation's GDP and 80% of its export revenue, providing employment for more than half of the population.

In May 2020, the Minister of Agriculture, Francisco Ramos, the representative of the Organic Market for Development-OM4D, the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the director of the Agronomic Research Center signed [the public-private protocol entitled "100% Organic São Tomé and Príncipe"](#), with which the country has developed an internationally recognized program in the promotion of agroecology, with nearly a quarter of its entire agricultural area devoted to organic production.

The strategy includes a number of relevant objectives: in particular in the areas of knowledge, production, use and conservation of natural resources, marketing and consumption, as central components of a strategy to transform the national food system. The National Food Security Council of São Tomé and Príncipe (CONSAN-STP), alongside the [Políticas Agroalimentares Sustentáveis](#) project, is committed to developing the "National Pact for Agroecology", promoting an inclusive governance model for food security and sustainability, and ensuring dialogue between



various local stakeholders with the support of the EU and other partners, as well as agreements with Lusophone countries (Community of Portuguese Language Countries-CPLP), to reach the goal of an international alliance of food systems. This project, aimed at ensuring food security through the production of nutritious and high-quality food for local and foreign markets, seeks to promote sustainable local food production through an integrated approach involving the production, marketing, and consumption sectors

There are several agreements with and between Lusophone countries, in accordance with the will to transform the country in an organic island and numerous national and international actors contribute to this national pact. Among various, [Cuba and São Tomé and Príncipe strengthen partnerships](#) to jointly reinforce agroecology capacities of Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Among the ongoing initiatives, the following are particularly worth highlighting:

- On May 2024: The Organic Agricultural Fair, co-funded by the EU and the Camões Institute, and implemented by Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (IMVF), took place as part of the Agricultural Export Sectors Support Project (PAFAE). The fair, aimed at promoting organic products and raising awareness of sustainable eating, will be held on the first Saturday of every month. It involves 40 local producers and supports the export agriculture sector, contributing to the country's economy and job creation.
- On 20 September 2024, the cocoa agroforestry system of São Tomé and Príncipe was [recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System \(GIAHS\) by the FAO](#). This system integrates cocoa cultivation with other crops and trees, creating a shade canopy that helps regulate the microclimate, promotes food security, supports the livelihoods of farming families, maintains biodiversity and demonstrates the resilience of the population in the commitment to sustainable practices and developments. The country is also exploring eco-friendly solutions, like charcoal made from coconut waste, to enhance agricultural sustainability.
- Several studies are underway to explore operational strategies to achieve the goal of 100% organic production. The UNDP-FAO study [Enhancing the bioinputs and organic vegetables value chains in Sao Tome and Principe](#) analyses the national goal of reducing the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and increasing the use of organic products and local bio pesticides for the domestic market by 25 percent by 2030.
- The 2021 [Study Sao Tomé and Principe in the construction of a national pact for agroecology](#), arises within the scope of the PAS Sustainable Agrifood Policies project (Civil society in consolidating multi-stakeholder governance of food and nutrition security in São Tomé and Príncipe) implemented since January 2019 by [the Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr \(IMVF\)](#), [the Association for Cooperation and Development ACTUAR](#) and [Action for the Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection ADAPPA](#), co-financed by the European Union and the Camões – Institute for Cooperation. It examines the country's food system configurations, its main trajectories, existing institutions and provides recommendations for the active promotion of agroecology and the transformation of the national food system.

Other recent medium and long-term initiatives demonstrate the country's commitment to achieving integrated territorial development starting from food safety and organic quality:



Since 2019 the country is part of [Restoration initiative \(TRI\)](#) promoting sustainable forest management and creating new value chains that benefit the local economy, with the commitment to restore 35,500 hectares of degraded forests and landscapes, which have been heavily impacted by agricultural expansion and other land uses (one-third of the nation's forests converted to plantations). This ambitious initiative involves the establishment of a Forest and Landscape Restoration platform, made of the diverse stakeholders to guide and promote restoration activities together with supports the development of sustainable livelihoods for local communities, including agroforestry and ecotourism initiatives.



Chinese research and Chinese cooperation with local authorities have yielded impressive results to produce local higher-quality crops while also preserving the environment. The [cooperation with China](#) has increased production and more sustainable practices allowing even small-scale farmers to improve their situation and has resulted in more affordable food for the island nation.



The country of São Tomé and Príncipe is effectively aiming to become a regional example for African countries in the transition towards organic and sustainable agriculture. This Transition Plan, which emphasizes agroecology not only as an agricultural practice but also as a catalyst for social and economic changes in local communities, is supported by international partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the FAO, and the European Union. It is replicable and complementary to what is happening in other countries that have focused on social, economic, and environmental sustainability.



To Know more

[Articulo Agencia STP.Ministry of Agriculture Agreement 100% Organic](#)

[FIBL IFOAM Organics International. The world of Organic Agriculture Statistics and emerging trends 2025.](#)

[FAO Agroecology Knowledge Hub -Article about Sao Tomé and Principe](#)



[ACTUAR website](#)

[adappa.org website](#)

[Instituto Camoes website](#)

[Actuar Articulo bio-regioes](#)

[Theforestationinitiative.org](#)



[FAO New GIAHS Sao Tomé and Principe Site recognized](#)

[Cocoa Agroforestry System of Sao Tomé and Principe. 2023 Report for the GIAHS Candidature](#)

[MVF Projeto PAS – Políticas Agroalimentares Sustentáveis organiza seminário outubro 2021](#)

[MVF 2021 Na Construcao de um pacto Nacional para agroecologia. pdf.](#)



[Feria Agricola biologica en SaoTomé e Principe en Forbesafricalusofona.com](https://forbesafricalusofona.com)

[Feria Agricola Biologica 2024 en Youtube](#)

[Enhancing bioinputs and organic vegetables value chains in Sao Tomé and Principe. UNDP Publication](#)

[sao-tome-e-principe-aposta-na-agricultura-biologica en forbesafricalusofona.com](https://forbesafricalusofona.com)

[Global organic area continues grow in UFOAM Bio News 2025](#)

