Since the end of the 1980s, we can observe signs of a progressive development of organic agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa. Uganda is one of the most interesting cases, sometimes qualified as the success story of African organic agriculture. With around 200,000 certified producers, Uganda has the second highest number of organic producers in the world, after India. In addition, Uganda has a very dynamic local community network and local processors and exporters that the National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (Nogamu) is federating since 2001. Furthermore, Uganda has been very dynamic in pushing organic agriculture to the political agenda, as well as defending the sector’s interests.

Why is the development trajectory of Ugandan organic agriculture so remarkable?

If Uganda is known for its certified organic agriculture for export and for its « organic by default » agricultural context, for Nogamu and its members, organic agriculture is more than that. It is a potential viable option for their agricultural development. Recent development of organic production for the domestic market as well as organic agriculture as a topic in research and higher education suggests a progressive consolidation of an alternative model of agriculture in Uganda. This intervention will start with a brief summary of the main drivers of the institutionalization of organic agriculture in Uganda. The second part will illustrate and discuss those findings, as well as bringing evidence of the local dynamics such as local marketing, creation of educational training center for farmers and youth, or the recent development of a PhD program on Agroecology at the Ugandan Martyrs University (UMU).