



3RD NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

SIDE EVENT GUIDELINES

Theme

Transforming Agrifood Systems through Agroecology: A One Health Approach for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient Futures.

I. Background

Kenya's food systems are at a critical juncture, facing interconnected challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, rising input costs, and persistent food and nutrition insecurity. These pressures are further intensified by global shocks, including geopolitical conflicts that disrupt supply chains and affect the availability and affordability of agricultural inputs.

In response, agroecology is increasingly recognized as a transformative pathway for food systems change. Anchored in a One Health approach, it integrates human, animal, and environmental wellbeing to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems that enhance livelihoods and restore ecosystems.

The Government of Kenya has demonstrated commitment to this transition through the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST) 2024–2033.

Building on the 1st and 2nd National Agroecology Symposia—which fostered multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge exchange, and policy engagement—the 3rd NAS aims to shift the focus from dialogue to implementation, inclusivity, and policy influence.

Rationale

The 3rd NAS comes at a pivotal moment as Kenya transitions from agroecology strategy development to implementation at scale. There is a need to strengthen linkages between policy frameworks and grassroots practice while ensuring inclusive participation of key actors, particularly women, youth, and pastoralist communities.

The symposium aligns with global priorities for 2026, including:

1. The International Year of the Woman Farmer
2. The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists
3. Regional commitments such as the IGAD Women Forum in Agrifood Systems and the Kampala CAADP commitment on women's empowerment

These provide a strategic opportunity to advance agroecological transitions towards healthy, just, and resilient agrifood systems.

The symposium will therefore:

- i. Strengthen the policy–practice interface
- ii. Promote inclusive food systems transformation
- iii. Enhance multi-stakeholder coordination
- iv. Amplify farmer and pastoralist voices
- v. Advance the One Health approach in agrifood systems

Overall Goal

To position agroecology at the center of Kenya's agrifood systems transformation by catalyzing action towards resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems through strengthened partnerships, knowledge exchange, and policy engagement.



Specific Objectives

- I. Facilitate knowledge exchange on practical agroecological innovations and experiences.
- II. Strengthen policy dialogue to accelerate implementation of the NAS-FST.
- III. Showcase agroecological technologies and models to promote adoption and market linkages.
- IV. Promote inclusive participation, particularly of women, youth, and pastoralists.
- V. Generate actionable outputs, including a policy brief and a Call to Action.

Proposed Key Themes

Overarching Theme: *Transforming Agrifood Systems through Agroecology: A One Health Approach for Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Futures*

Sub-theme 1: *One Health and Agroecology for Resilient Food Systems*

Sub-theme 2: *Women, Social Inclusion, and Equitable Food Systems Transformation*

Sub-theme 3: *Rangelands, Pastoralism, and Biodiversity*

Sub-theme 4: *Policy, Governance, and Implementation of Agroecology*

2. Objectives of Side Events

Side events should aim to:

- Promote practical and scalable agroecological solutions
- Strengthen policy and governance dialogues
- Facilitate networking and partnerships
- Showcase innovations, research, and community practices
- Elevate farmer ,pastoralist, youth, women, and Indigenous voices
- Support county-level domestication and implementation of agroecology policies
- Contribute to sustainable food systems transformation in Kenya

3. Eligibility

Applications are invited from:

- National Government ministries, departments, and agencies
- County governments
- Farmer organizations and cooperatives
- Civil society organizations
- Research and academic institutions
- Students/ learners
- Development partners



- Youth and women-led organizations
- Indigenous peoples' organizations
- Private sector actors aligned with agroecological principles
- Regional and international organizations

Joint applications and multi-stakeholder collaborations are strongly encouraged.

4. Thematic Areas

Side events should align with the symposium theme and one or more sub theme

5. Side Event Formats

Applicants may propose interactive and engaging formats including and not limited to:

- Panel discussions
- Policy dialogues

- Learning sessions
- Innovation showcases
- Product or publication launches
- Poster sessions
- Networking sessions/ cafes
- Farmer experience-sharing forums
- Women/ Youth-led dialogues
- Multi-stakeholder roundtables

Organizers are encouraged to avoid overly formal presentations and promote audience participation.

6. Duration and Scheduling

- Side events will typically run for **60–90 minutes**
- Events will be held physically . The host may also consider a hybrid format to reach more audience
- Final scheduling will be determined by the Symposium Secretariat
- Organizers must strictly observe allocated time

7. Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Relevance to symposium theme and agroecology priorities



- Clarity of objectives and expected outcomes
- Innovation and practical relevance
- Inclusivity and diversity of speakers
- Participation of farmers, pastoralist ,youth, women, and marginalized groups
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration
- Potential policy and implementation impact
- Interactive and participatory approach
- County-level implementation experiences
- Evidence-based agroecological practices
- Cross-sector partnerships
- Scalable agroecological solutions

8. Responsibilities of Organizers

Side event organizers will be responsible for:

- Inviting people to their side events(publicity can be before the symposium and during the symposium)
 - Coordinating speakers and moderators
 - Ensuring gender and stakeholder balance
 - Preparing presentations and session materials
 - Facilitating participants engagement
 - Covering travel and accommodation costs for speakers where required
 - Sharing the key call to action with the secretariat
 - Branding the rooms

Organizers are encouraged to minimize waste and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

9. Responsibilities of the Symposium Secretariat

The Secretariat will:

- Review and approve applications
- Allocate side event slots and venues
- Provide standard conference room setup for the side event
- Provide basic audiovisual equipment



- Include approved side events in the official programme
- Support general symposium communication and visibility
- Support with a conference rapporteur.

10. Communication and Branding

Approved organizers:

- May promote their side events using symposium communication channels
- Must use approved symposium branding and logos
- Must acknowledge the 3rd National Agroecology Symposium in all publicity materials

The following are prohibited:

- Political campaigning
- Commercial advertising unrelated to agroecology
- Messaging inconsistent with agroecological principles and symposium values

11. Submission Requirements

Applicants should submit:

1. Completed side event application form here:
<https://nationalagroecologysymposium.pelumkenya.net/register/>
2. Concept note (maximum 2 pages)
3. Draft agenda/programme
4. Proposed speaker list. If ready
5. Organizational profile(s)
6. Communication or outreach plan (optional)

12. Reporting Requirements

There will be a rapporteur in each of the side event room provided by secretariat. But side event host can as well have their notes takers.

The host of the side event are highly encourage to share any call to action from the event with the secretariat at the end.

13. Code of Conduct

All participants and organizers are expected to:

- Promote respectful and inclusive dialogue
- Uphold gender equality and non-discrimination
- Respect cultural diversity and Indigenous knowledge systems



- Comply with symposium safeguarding and ethical standards