



KENYA  
NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION



## CONCEPT NOTE

### 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (NAS)

**VENUE:** NAIROBI, KENYA (EXACT VENUE TBC)

**DATE:** 22<sup>ND</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2026

#### **THEME:**

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

#### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

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

The 2<sup>nd</sup> NAS (2025) achieved strong multi-stakeholder participation, effective technical coordination, impactful policy discussions culminating in a Call to Action, and vibrant exhibitions. However, key lessons included the need to:

- Prioritize fewer, high-impact sessions
- Strengthen farmer-centered and practical engagement
- Enhance policy follow-up mechanisms
- Deepen inclusion of women, youth, and pastoralists
- Improve logistics, visibility, and early planning

The 3<sup>rd</sup> NAS will build on these lessons to deliver a more focused and action-oriented symposium.

## **RATIONALE**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

This overarching theme highlights agroecology as a pathway for transforming agrifood systems through an integrated One Health approach that links human, animal, and environmental well-being.

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

This sub-theme will focus on operationalizing the One Health approach within agroecological systems, emphasizing the interconnections between ecosystem health, animal health, and human wellbeing.

Key Focus Areas:

- Integrated soil, water, biodiversity, and ecosystem health management
- Linkages between agroecology, nutrition, and human health outcomes
- Sustainable livestock integration and animal health within agroecological systems
- Climate resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches

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

Aligned with the International Year of the Woman Farmer, this sub-theme focuses on inclusive agroecological transitions by centering women, youth, and marginalized groups.

Key Focus Areas:

- Women’s leadership and agency in agroecology
- Social inclusion (youth, pastoralists, indigenous communities)
- Access to productive resources (land, finance, markets)
- Gender-responsive and inclusive policies and institutions

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

Aligned with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, this sub-theme explores agroecological approaches to sustainable rangeland management and ecosystem restoration.

Key Focus Areas:

- Sustainable rangeland management and restoration
- Pastoralist livelihoods, resilience, and mobility systems
- Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration
- Integration of indigenous and local knowledge systems

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

This sub-theme focuses on enabling environments for agroecology, including policy frameworks, financing, and response to emerging global challenges.

Key Focus Areas:

- Implementation of the NAS-FST (2024–2033) at national and county levels
- Policy coherence, institutional coordination, and accountability
- Financing agroecology and investment pathways
- Emerging issues: global shocks, supply chains, and scaling innovations (bio-inputs, digital tools)

**SYMPOSIUM STRUCTURE**

**Day 1: Agroecology Progress, Policy & Practice**

High-level plenaries, keynote reflections, thematic dialogues, and practitioner showcases focused on progress in agroecology, lessons from implementation of the NAS-FST, and practical experiences from counties, farmers, and partners driving food systems transformation.

## **Day 2: Scaling Agroecology, Innovation & Partnerships**

Forward-looking policy and investment dialogues, innovation and enterprise showcases, partnership roundtables, and co-creation sessions focused on scaling agroecological solutions, strengthening markets, and advancing the One Health approach, culminating in a closing plenary and Call to Action.

### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

1. Civil society organizations
2. Farmer based Organizations
3. National & County Government ministries
4. Private-Sector Agrifood Market Players
5. Farmers
6. Donor community and financiers

### **ORGANIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP**

- PELUM Kenya (Lead Organizer)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (Co-Convener)
- Sector Government Ministries
- County Governments
- Research and Academia: CIFOR-ICRAF, Universities, KALRO
- Civil Society: Biovision Foundation, We Effect, INADES, APHRC, ActionAid, KOAN
- Multi-Stakeholder Platforms: ISFAA

### **REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Details will be communicated through official channels.

Partners logo's to be added