



Ministry of Agriculture &
Livestock Development

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



3RD NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

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



DATE: 22ND – 23RD JULY 2026

**VENUE: THE CENTRAL BANK OF KENYA INSTITUTE OF
MONETARY Studies (CBK-IMS), formerly the Kenya
School of Monetary Studies (KSMS)**

ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association is a network of Civil Society Organizations / NGOs working with Small-scale farmers in East, Central, and Southern Africa. The Association membership has grown from 25 pioneer members (in 1995) to over 280 members. PELUM Kenya is the Kenyan country chapter of the PELUM Association and has a membership of 68 Member Organizations. The network promotes agroecological principles and practices through advocacy and policy influence, networking, capacity development, information, and knowledge sharing. Agroecological practices promoted include: organic agriculture, sustainable agriculture, regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, permaculture, conservation agriculture, biodynamic agriculture, family farming, and bio-intensive agriculture.

MISSION

To champion agroecological principles and practices for sustainable and resilient livelihoods among smallholder farmers, pastoralists and. fisherfolk.

VISION

Empowered, prosperous, healthy, and resilient communities.



3RD NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (NAS), KENYA

The 3rd National Agroecology Symposium (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.

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 National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST) 2024-2033
- 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.

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

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY 2026 MC: MARK MASAI		
Day	Time	Session
Day 1	7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration & Exhibition
	8:30 – 9:15 AM	National anthem, East Africa anthem and opening prayers Introductions, background and context setting – <i>Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya</i> Welcoming remarks– <i>Ms. Janet Mumo , PELUM Kenya, Chairperson</i> Moderator: MC: Mark Masai
	9:15 – 10:15 AM	Plenary 1: One Health and Agroecology for Resilient Food Systems: Key note presentation:<i>Transforming Agrifood Systems through One Health: The Future of Agroecology, Food Security and Rural Prosperity” by Dr. Samuel Kahariri- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD)</i> Panel Discussion : From Vision to Action: Operationalizing One Health and Agroecology for Resilient Food Systems Panelists 1. Mr. Benson Kamau- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD) 2. Ms. Hannah Kigamba- Diabetes Awareness Trust (DAT) 3. Mr. Francis Mwangi- Farmer 4. Ms. Leila Odhiambo- Ministry of Health (MOH), Directory of Nutrition and Dietetics Services 5. Ms. Sally Kahiu- World Animal Protection (WAP) Moderator : Dr. Nehemiah Mihindo- Executive Director, Effective IPM Association (EIPMA)

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY 2026 MC: MARK MASAI		
Day	Time	Session
Day 1	10:15 – 10:45 AM	Tea Break/Exhibition tours
	10:45 – 11:15 PM	OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY <i>Opening remarks by:</i>
		1. Dr.Sophia Baumert- Project Manager,Global Programme for Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies, GIZ Kenya. 2. Dr. Davis Ikiror- Country Director of VSF-Suisse on behalf of the SUFOSEC Alliance 3. Dr. Robert Mbeche- Director Food Program, World Resource Institute (WRI) 4. Mr. Frederick Ochieng- Interim Executive Director, Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) 5. Dr. Lisa Fuchs- Alliance for Bioversity International and CIAT 6. Ms. Tabara Ndiaye- African Regional Funds Coordinator, Agroecology Fund 7 Ms. Betty Kibara- Director, The Rockefeller Foundation 8. Eng. Laban Kiplagat- Agriculture Engineering Secretary, MOALD Official opening speech by: Hon. Mutahi Kagwe- <i>Cabinet Secretary , Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MOALD)</i> Entertainment Moderator: : Mr. Mark Masai , MC
	11:15 – 12:15 PM	Plenary 2: Policy session: Policy, Governance, and Implementation of National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST 2024–2033)–Creating enabling environments for agroecology by strengthening



DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY 2026 MC: MARK MASAI		
Day	Time	Session
Day 1		<i>policy frameworks, enhancing financing mechanisms, and addressing emerging global challenges.</i> Keynote Presentation: <i>Progress of NAS-FST implementation and the evolving impact of national agroecology symposium calls to action by Eng. Alice Nyaga- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development</i> Panel Discussion: Translating the NAS-FST into Action: Strengthening Governance, Financing, and Accountability for Agroecology Panelists 1.Ms. Elizabeth Mwangi- Chief Officer Agriculture, County Government of Laikipia, 2. Hon. Damaris Kavoi – CECM Agriculture in Makueni County 3. Dr. Martin Oulu- Coordinator , Intersectoral Forum for Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA) 4. Hon. Leonard Borr- CECM Agriculture, Nakuru County 5. Dr. John Gachara- CECM Agriculture, Kirinyaga County Moderator- Ms. Nancy Rapando, Africa Centre for Climate Agri-food and Nature (AfricCLAN)

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY 2026
MC: MARK MASAI

Day	Time	Session
Day 1	12:15–13:15 PM	Plenary session 4: Strengthening Pastoral & ASAL Systems through Agroecology Session Objective: <i>To explore agroecological pathways for sustainable rangeland management and ecosystem restoration, while strengthening pastoralist livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, nutritional needs, and integration of indigenous knowledge systems.</i> Keynote presentation: <i>Sustainable Rangelands for Resilient Food Systems–A One Health Perspective by</i> Dr. Clement Lenachuru– Lead Environmental and Climate Change; Pastoralists Livelihoods and Indigenous Knowledge Panel Discussion: <i>Harnessing Agroecology for Resilient Rangelands and Pastoral Communities</i> Panelists 1. Mr. Hosea Kendagor– Merti Intergrated Development programme. (MIDP) 2. Mr. Abdikadir Sonkolo– Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC) 3. Mr. Zachary Makanya– Chief Executive Officer, Rural Initiatives Development Programme (RIDEP) 4. Ms. Monica Yator– Indigenous Women and Girls Initiative 5. Prof Salome R.A. Bukachi– University of Nairobi Moderator : Mr. Joseph Lentunyoi– Executive Director, Laikipia Permaculture Training Centre

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY 2026					
MC: MARK MASAI					
Day	Time	Session			
Day 1	13.15 – 14.15PM	Lunch			
	14:30 – 4:30 PM	SIDE EVENTS			
Room : Theatre LT-001 Title: Introducing The National Technical Committee on Agroecology (NTCA), Plans and Progress With Implementing the NAS-FST Host : ISFAA, MOALD, and Landscape Alliance		Room :NZOIA Title: Permaculture perspectives as an enabler towards Agroecology implementation Host : BIOGI and DNRC		Room: AUDITORIUM Title: How Grassroots Women Are Leading Kenya's Agroecology Transformation Host: GROOTS and HIVOS	
				Room :MARA Title: Agroecology for Nutrition: Operationalizing Agroecology for Nutrition and Health Host :Visibilize4ClimateAction Project (APHRC, PELUM Kenya, University of Nairobi, Landscape Alliance	
				Room : B – 10 Title: "The Knowledge is Already Here: How Communities Are Leading Kenya's Agroecological Transition Host SUFOSEC Alliance Kenya Country Group	
				Room : B – 9 Title: From Policy to Implementation: Are County Agroecology Commitments Translating into Action for Farmers and Communities ? Host : Route to Food and PELUM Kenya	



DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY 2026 MC: MARK MASAI		
Day	Time	Session
Day 2	8:30 – 9:00 AM	Recap of Day 1 Mr. Job Mainye, Rapporteur
	9:00 – 10:00 AM	Plenary session 3: Women, Youth, Social Inclusion, and Equitable Food Systems Transformation. Session objective: <i>Fostering agroecological transitions by centering women, youth, and marginalized groups in agrifood systems.</i> Key note presentation: Framing inclusion within agroecology and One Health approach: Pathways to equity and resilience by Ms. Stellemaris Mulaeh, Act for Change Trust Panel Discussion : Practical experiences in Fostering agroecological transitions by centering women, youth, and marginalized groups in agrifood systems. Panelists 1. Ms Elizabeth Yegon–Gender Representative, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development 2. Ms. Monica Nyaga– Gender Officer, PELUM Kenya 3. Ms. Esther Bett –Executive Director, Resource Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) Kenya 4. Mr. Antony Kowiti–Representative, People With Disability 5. Mr. Michael Ohatto– Project Manager, Resilient Agriculture that works for the youth project, Practical Action Moderator : Ms. Eunice Mwangi, Executive Director – Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS) Kenya
	10:00 – 10:30 AM	Tea Break/Exhibition tours

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY 2026**MC: MARK MASAI**

Day	Time	Session
Day 2	10:30 – 12:30 AM	Innovations session: Scaling agroecological solutions for harnessing one-health challenges Session objective: <i>To demonstrate and critically examine applied One Health innovations in agroecology that integrate ecosystem, animal, and human health, with a focus on practical solutions that can be adopted, adapted, and scaled across diverse agroecological contexts.</i>
		Keynote Presentation: <i>The slow advantage: Trading Short Term Yield for soil and Biodiversity gains in Highland Potato farming</i> Dr. Hilda Manzi, World Resources Institute (WRI) Panel discussion: From Innovation to Scale: Advancing One Health Solutions for Resilient Agroecological Food Systems. Practical experiences from Private sector innovations Panelists 1. Mr. Samuel Ndung'u- Program Manager Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) 2. Dr. Geoffrey Ongoya- International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) 3. Ms. Agnes Bene- Pastoralist, Maasai Women Dairy Cooperative 4. Mr. David Karanja- Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK) 5. Mr. King'uru Wahome- Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industries Innovation pitches: 5 minutes each (fast-paced, practical and scalable solutions). Dr. Beatrice Adoyo Voting for best innovators (Menti) Moderator: Dr. Beatrice Adoyo, Landscape Alliance

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY 2026 MC: MARK MASAI					
Day	Time	Session			
Day 2	12:30 –13.00 PM	Exhibition Tour			
	13.00– 2.00pm	Lunch			
	14.00pm– 15.30pm	Side Events			
Room: B-9 Title: Mainstreaming entrepreneurship in agroecology Host: ISFAA, MOALD		Room:Mara Title: Strengthening Farmer-Led Research and Knowledge Co-Creation for Healthy Soils and Climate-Resilient Agroecology Host : BIOG1 Room:		Room: Main Plenary Hall / Auditorium. Title: Designing for Effective Coordination: Configuring County Systems through CASSCOMs for Agroecology and Integrated Agri-Food Systems Outcomes. Host :GIZ	
		Room: Nzoia Title: Unlocking Circular Economy Opportunities for Agri-food SMEs in Kenya: Policy Insights and Action Pathways Host : Biovision Africa Trust		Room:B – 10 Title: Youth Shaping Transformation of Agrifood Systems through Agroecology Host : WingFarm Organization, ISFAA, (ISFAA) Youth Caucus, The Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT	
				Theatre : LT 001 Title: Community-led innovation and learning in promoting Regenerative, Inclusive Food Systems in Nakuru Host : Nakuru Living Lab (NLL), hosted by Egerton University	



DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 23RD JULY 2026 MC: MARK MASAI		
Day	Time	Session
	15:30-17:00PM	CALL TO ACTION, AWARDS AND OFFICIAL CLOSING CEROMONY
		Call to action: Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya Awards: Mr. Collins Ochieng, Executive Director, Community Rehabilitation & Environmental Protection (CREPP) Vote of thanks: Olivia Nyaidho, Board member, PELUM Kenya Closing Remarks:Dr. Mukok, CECM Agriculture, Busia County Closing prayers: Farmer representative



3RD NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM PARTNERS

SUFOSEC ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

ALLIANCE
SUFOSEC



SWISSAID



VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES
SUISSE



The SUFOSEC Alliance brings together six Swiss international development organizations united by a shared commitment: fulfilling the right to food in an era marked by climate crises and global fragility. Rooted in the principles of sustainability, equity, and local empowerment, SUFOSEC works in close collaboration with over 300 partner organizations across 29 countries.

MISSION

To realize the right to food for all by strengthening sustainable food systems, supporting community resilience, and addressing the intersection of climate change, gender justice, and food sovereignty.

Core Areas of Focus

- » Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems
- » Empowerment of Grassroots Communities
- » Climate Justice and Resilience
- » Gender Equity and Inclusion
- » Local-Led Development and Capacity Strengthening

SUFOSEC is composed of six Swiss-based development NGOs, namely; Fastenaktion, SwissAid, VSF Suisse, Vivamos Mejor, Aqua Alimenta, Skat Foundation that pool resources, knowledge, and influence to drive impact. Active in 29 programme countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, SUFOSEC prioritizes local partnerships, inclusive governance, and context-specific solutions to food insecurity and climate vulnerability. Strong network of 300+ partner organizations, SUFOSEC emphasizes collaborative implementation, mutual learning, and co-creation of solutions tailored to community needs and local ecosystems. The alliance is co-funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), ensuring alignment with Swiss international cooperation goals and global development standards.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.swissaid.ch/en/sufosec-alliance/>

GIZ SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS AND POLICIES (AGSYS), GIZ KENYA



The global programme Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies (AgSys) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in partnership with the Kenya Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. The programme supports nine cooperating countries in transforming their agricultural and food systems through various interventions related to transformative policies and implementation, innovation scaling and institutionalization, agency and empowerment, sustainable agri-sector financing, and up to global level exchanges and learning. AgSys in Kenya aims to strengthen transformation processes including policy advisory towards sustainable agricultural systems at national and county level, and upwards contributing to transnational exchange.

The global programme module objective is “Transformation processes towards sustainable agricultural systems are strengthened in Kenya” and works in five fields of activity (Outputs):

1. Promoting reform approaches through transformative agricultural policy. These approaches need to be cross-cutting and as such connect agricultural policy with other areas such as food and nutrition security, climate action and biodiversity conservation.
2. Scaling successful practices to provide support in consolidating and institutionalizing tried-and-tested approaches and innovations.
3. Including input from civil society by involving non-state actors, above all women and young people, in the reform agendas.
4. Harmonizing financial contributions with the aim of transforming the national funding landscape and opening access to additional funding and contributions to support the reform agendas.
5. Linking national and global agendas to strengthen national reform processes and enrich the debate on the transformation of agricultural and food systems.

To learn more, visit: [The global programme Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies \(AgSys\)](#)

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE (WRI)



The World Resources Institute (WRI) has been working in Africa for more than 30 years toward a more sustainable society that can meet people's essential needs, protect and restore nature and stabilize the climate. Our vision is an inclusive transformation so that Africa's people and landscapes can flourish. As an independent research organization, we leverage our data, expertise, and global reach to influence policy and catalyze change across systems like food, land, and water; energy; and cities.

At WRI Africa, our Food Program is dedicated to reimagining Africa's food systems to meet the nutritional needs of a rapidly growing population while advancing our core goals for people, nature, and climate. Our vision is a resilient and inclusive food system that secures nutrition, creates green jobs, builds community resilience, protects biodiversity, and contributes to climate action.

To achieve this, our strategy is anchored in three priority areas:

1. Sustainable food productivity prioritizing agroecology and regenerative agriculture to restore soil health, increase yields and strengthen climate resilience.

2. Reducing food loss and waste across the entire value chain to enhance food security, raise incomes, and cut environmental impact.

3. Shifting diets and consumption patterns towards diverse and healthy diets toward diverse, nutritious, and sustainable foods to improve health and reduce the food system's ecological footprint.

To learn more, visit: <https://africa.wri.org/>

BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST (BVAT)



BIOVISION AFRICA TRUST (BVAT) is a Not-for-profit organization established in Kenya in 2009 by the Biovision Foundation for ecological development in Switzerland and hosted by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi. The Trust's goal is to alleviate poverty and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Kenya and other African countries through supporting the dissemination of information and knowledge on appropriate technologies on human, animal, plant, and environmental health and building the capacity of farmers and partners for the ecological transformation of African agriculture and food systems. BvAT currently has four main programmes through which the mission is undertaken. The Farmer Communication Programme (FCP), the Ecological Organic Agroecology Promotion Programme.

The FCP consists of five pathways through which ecological-based technologies and practices are disseminated to smallholder farmers, namely the Print (The Organic Farmer) Magazine mainly for Kenya and Mkulima Mbunifu Magazine for Tanzania), the Radio (The Organic Farmer Radio), Online (Infonet-Biovision platform), dissemination of digitized content through digital platforms, and the Outreach.

The African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) is a response to the implementation of the decision adopted in January 2011 (EX. Cl/ Dec.621 (xvii)) by the African Union Heads of State and Government addressing the challenges facing the organic sub-sector.

The overall goal of the initiative is to mainstream ecological organic agriculture into national agri-food systems by 2025 to improve the quality of life for all African citizens. In 2019, the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment endorsed Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) to host its Africa Secretariat and BvAT signed an MOU with the AU in October 2022 to strengthen the collaboration

To learn more, visit: <https://biovisionafricatrust.org/>

Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)



The Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) is the national coordinating body for the organic agriculture sector in Kenya. Founded in 2005, KOAN is a membership organization that brings together producers, retailers, exporters, traders, NGOs, and like-minded individuals and organizations dedicated to promoting organic agriculture.

KOAN represents over 200,000 farmers and exporters and works with partners across the country to strengthen the organic sector. The organization promotes organic agriculture through communication, advocacy, and trade facilitation. This includes training, linking farmers to both domestic and international markets, and connecting organic operators with business development service providers such as input suppliers and certification bodies.

KOAN has played a key role in the development and implementation of the East Africa Organic Products Standards (EAOPS) and the East Africa Organic Mark – the Kilimohai brand. At the national level, KOAN actively advocates for policies that support and promote organic agriculture in Kenya.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.koan.co.ke/>

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT



The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT delivers research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and sustainably transform food systems to improve people's lives. Our solutions address the global crises of malnutrition, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. With novel partnerships, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams innovations to transform food systems and landscapes so that they sustain the planet, drive prosperity, and nourish people. The Alliance is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

To learn more, visit: <https://alliancebioversityciat.org/>

Landscape Alliance



Landscape Alliance works at the interface of science, policy, and practice to develop integrated solutions for today's most pressing environmental and development challenges. We harness the potential of trees, forests, and agroforestry landscapes to advance climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, sustainable food systems, and improved livelihoods.

Through collaborative landscape approaches, we partner with communities, governments, Indigenous Peoples, researchers, civil society, and the private sector to co-create evidence-based, locally relevant, and scalable solutions. By integrating scientific research, local knowledge, innovation, and long-term partnerships, we support transformative change toward resilient, equitable, and sustainable landscapes.

Landscape Alliance is the operating name of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF). CIFOR and ICRAF are independent international organizations and CGIAR Research Centers.

THE AFRICAN POPULATION AND HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER (APHRC)



The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is a premier research-to-policy institution, generating evidence, strengthening research and related capacity in the African Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem, and engaging policy to inform action on health and development. APHRC is Africa-based and African-led, with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and a West Africa Regional Office (WARO), in Dakar, Senegal. APHRC seeks to drive change by developing strong African research leadership and promoting evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) across sub-Saharan Africa. The Center's portfolio comprises over 100 projects in more than 35 countries, involving global, regional, and national stakeholders. APHRC engages with policymakers in the region to influence policy decisions and to tackle development challenges in the continent.

To learn more, visit; <https://aphrc.org/>

Intersectoral Forum for Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA)



Intersectoral Forum for Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA) is a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) that convenes government, civil society, private sector, farmer organizations, and research and academia to promote transformation of food systems through agroecology. With its secretariat at the Ministry of Agriculture, it operates through five thematic working groups (TWGs). ISFAA is well known for spearheading the development of the NAS-FST whose implementation it oversees.

To learn more, visit: <https://isfaa.ke>

World Animal Protection(WAP)



World Animal Protection* is an international animal welfare organization working to improve the lives of animals by promoting humane and sustainable food systems. In Kenya and across Africa, we partner with governments, civil society, academia, and farming communities to advance animal welfare as an integral part of agroecology, supporting healthy animals, resilient livelihoods, and sustainable food systems.

To learn more, visit; [WAP](https://www.worldanimalprotection.org/)

HIVOS



Founded in 1968, Hivos is a human rights and social justice organization driven by humanist values. We envision a just world in which everyone, regardless of their identity, background or circumstances, lives in dignity and freedom and can build a fair and sustainable future for themselves, their communities, and the wider society.

Our mission is to defend and expand the civil and political rights that enable people, either as individuals, communities, grassroots movements, or organizations, to realize this vision. The full, unhindered exercise of these rights is necessary to keep civic space open and growing.

We focus on supporting and strengthening civil society actors, organizations, and networks; social movements; independent media and cultural actors; human rights defenders; and community organizations whose work aims to achieve equality and justice in their societies.

To learn more, visit; <https://hivos.org/east-africa/>

NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SNV)



SNV is a global development partner with over 60 years of experience, strongly rooted in the African and Asian countries where we operate. Our vision is a world where all people live with dignity and have equitable opportunities to thrive sustainably. To realize this, we support transformations in agri-food, energy, and water systems through capacity building, catalytic partnerships, and inclusive governance, all while addressing gender equity, climate adaptation, biodiversity, and social inclusion. As part of our 2030 Agri-Food Strategy, SNV is committed to catalyzing sustainable and resilient agri-food systems that ensure food security, nutrition, and climate resilience. We take a systems-transformation approach strengthening institutions and expanding market-based solutions, youth and women entrepreneurship, and regenerative agriculture.

To learn more, visit; <https://www.snv.org/country/kenya>

The Institute for Food Justice and Development (IFJAD)



The Institute for Food Justice and Development (IFJAD) is a youth-led nonprofit organization advancing food systems transformation in Kenya by championing fairness, inclusion, dignity, and socioeconomic empowerment across food systems. We work with smallholder farmers, fishers, food vendors, workers, consumers, and other marginalized food system actors to address the root causes of hunger, malnutrition, unsafe food, and unequal access to economic opportunities.

Through research, policy advocacy, community education, and grassroots action, we are building equitable, resilient, and people-centered food systems where everyone can access safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate food and participate in sustainable livelihoods. Our work is delivered through three flagship programs. Chakula ni Haki advances food literacy, nutrition, food safety, and the right to food while empowering consumers to make informed food choices. Ajira Bora promotes decent work, skills development, entrepreneurship, and fair economic opportunities for food system workers. Kijiji Agrilab supports community-led agroecology, indigenous knowledge, and climate-resilient farming while strengthening local food economies. Together, these programs drive policy change, foster community resilience, and create food systems that are healthier, more inclusive, and more just for both people and the planet.

WingFarm



WingFarm is a youth-led non-profit organization committed to eradicating hunger by transforming agrifood systems through agroecology, innovation, and the One Health approach. We believe that the right to food is a fundamental human right and that young people are key to building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems. By partnering with communities, governments, research institutions, development partners, and the private sector, we deliver lasting solutions to hunger, climate change, unemployment, and food insecurity.

We envision a world where no one goes to bed hungry. Our mission is to empower youth to lead agrifood systems transformation through capacity building, advocacy, research, innovation, and strategic partnerships. We champion agroecology as a pathway to restoring ecosystems, strengthening climate resilience, improving food and nutrition security, and creating sustainable livelihoods, while integrating the One Health approach to advance the health of people, animals, and the environment.

INADES Kenya,

INADES-Formation Kenya is a pan-African, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) dedicated to the social and economic advancement of rural communities through sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and community empowerment. Originally established in Kenya in 1978, it operates primarily in semi-arid areas of Lower Eastern Kenya, including Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, and Kajiado counties. Inades-Formation Kenya works for the economic and social development of populations with particular emphasis on their free and responsible participation in the transformation of their societies. Its working approach is “Stimulation and Support of Development Alternatives at the service of the Common Good (SAADEV).

To learn more visit: www.inadesformation.net

SIDE EVENTS ABSTRACTS

Host: Fastenaktion · Vivamos · VSF Suisse · Swissaid | SUFOSEC Alliance Kenya Country Group



Host: Fastenaktion · Vivamos · VSF Suisse · Swissaid | SUFOSEC Alliance Kenya Country Group

1. Title: "The Knowledge is Already Here: How Communities Are Leading Kenya's Agroecological Transition"

The side event brings together the SUFOSEC Alliance Kenya Country Group (Fastenaktion, Vivamos, VSF-Suisse, and Swissaid) and their implementing partners to demonstrate how community-led agroecological practices are already addressing food security, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods across Kenya's smallholder and pastoral systems. Drawing on field evidence from community seed banks, solidarity farming groups, and pastoral communities, the event argues that the main challenge is not a lack of knowledge but a lack of recognition of indigenous and community-driven agroecological solutions within policy, research, and funding systems.

The event highlights three key examples:

1. Swissaid's community seed banks in Turkana and Baringo have improved access to locally adapted indigenous seeds, increasing climate-resilient crop production by 67% and seed security by 75%, where conventional seed aid has been ineffective.

2. Fastenaktion's participatory impact study demonstrates how solidarity-based agroecology, farmer-to-farmer learning, local seed systems, and community markets strengthen food security, nutrition, resilience, and social cohesion while showcasing participatory approaches to generating evidence.

3. VSF Suisse's pastoral work illustrates pastoralist agroecology as a long-standing, highly effective system based on seasonal mobility, indigenous rangeland governance, and integrated livestock-soil-water management that remains under-recognized in policy and investment.

4. Vivamos and its local partners further demonstrate the benefits of collective action, farmer learning, and community markets in improving resilience and livelihoods in western and central Kenya.

Host: GIZ, Kenya



2. Title: Designing for Effective Coordination: Configuring County Systems through CASS

As counties implement the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST), effective coordination remains a major challenge to achieving integrated agri-food systems outcomes. Although County Agriculture Sector Steering Committees (CASSCOMs) serve as multi-stakeholder platforms, evidence shows they are not fully embedded within county governance systems. Consequently, thematic initiatives such as agroecology, nutrition, and climate-smart agriculture are often implemented through fragmented structures, leading to duplication, inefficient resource use, and limited impact.

This side event will explore how CASSCOMs can be redesigned and institutionalized as central coordination hubs that align multiple sectoral priorities within county planning and decision-making processes. It will bring together national and county governments, researchers, and development partners to identify practical approaches for strengthening governance, clarifying mandates, and enhancing institutional coordination to deliver coherent, county-led agri-food systems transformation.

Host: ISFAA, MOALD, PELUM Kenya and Landscape Alliance



3.Title: Introducing the National Technical Committee on Agroecology (NTCA), plans and progress with implementing the NAS-FST

Kenya developed and launched its National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024-2033) in November 2024. While the launch was a feat worth celebrating, the realization of the objectives and ideals of the NAS-FST lies in its implementation. This side event will highlight the progress so far in implementing the NAS-FST and introduce the NTCA, its role, and plans for the future.

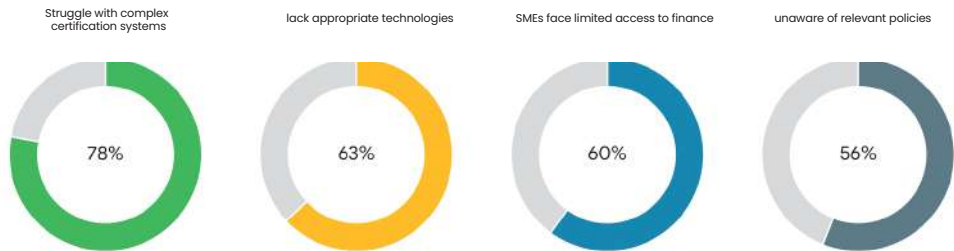
Host: Biovision Africa Trust



4.Title: Unlocking Circular Economy Opportunities for Agri-food SMEs in Kenya: Policy Insights and Action Pathways

Kenya’s transition to a circular economy offers significant potential to reduce food loss, strengthen sustainable livelihoods, and improve resource efficiency. However, approximately 40% of total food production (about 5.2 million tonnes valued at KSh 72 billion) is lost annually, highlighting inefficiencies in agri-food systems. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are critical drivers of circular solutions—transforming organic waste into compost, bioenergy, animal feed, and other value-added products. Despite a supportive policy environment—including the Sustainable Waste Management Act (2022) and Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations (2024)—SMEs face barriers that limit their participation and growth.

Findings from the O-Farms study (implemented by Biovision Africa Trust with Bopinc) reveal key constraints:



This side event provides a timely platform to disseminate these insights and catalyze dialogue among policymakers, practitioners, and private sector actors during the National Agroecology Symposium. The overall goal is to disseminate key findings and policy recommendations from the O-Farms Kenya Policy Brief and stimulate multi-stakeholder dialogue on enabling circular agri-food SMEs.

Host: Visibilize4ClimateAction Project (APHRC, PELUM Kenya, University of Nairobi, Landscape Alliance)



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI


LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE
 OPEN & URBAN SOCIETIES

5.Title: Agroecology for Nutrition: Operationalizing Agroecology for Nutrition and Health

Kenya's food systems are increasingly threatened by the combined impacts of climate change, soil degradation, and rising agricultural production costs, with significant consequences for food security, nutrition, and public health.

While the country's National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (2024–2033) recognizes agroecology as a key pathway for building resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems, translating policy commitments into practical, scalable action remains a major challenge. Limited evidence on the costs of transitioning to agroecological systems, alongside knowledge gaps on their nutrition and health benefits, continues to constrain adoption among smallholder farmers.

Emerging evidence from the Visibilize4ClimateAction Project on how agroecological and agroforestry practices contribute to improved soil health, agrobiodiversity, dietary diversity, and human health while strengthening resilience to climate change. The session will highlight research on the costs and investment requirements of agroecological practices, demonstrate how healthy soils enhance the micronutrient quality of crops, and explore how diversified farming systems can improve household nutrition through year-round access to diverse foods. By integrating perspectives from research, policy, civil society, and farming communities, the session will showcase practical pathways for operationalizing agroecology within Kenya's food systems transformation agenda.

Host: Biogardening Innovations (BIOGI) and Dryland Natural Resources Centre (DNRC)



6.Title: Permaculture perspectives as an enabler towards Agroecology implementation

BIOGI and DNRC have jointly implemented the Holistic Farm Model towards Agroecological Food Systems Transition project with support from the Agroecology Fund. The initiative demonstrates how ecological principles can be applied in contrasting climatic contexts—humid Western Kenya and the semi-arid landscapes of Eastern Kenya—to strengthen climate adaptation, enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, and promote sustainable food production. Working with demonstration farms in four counties, the project uses farmer-to-farmer "look and learn" approaches that enable practical knowledge exchange and adaptation of agroecological innovations to local conditions. Comparing experiences across different rainfall patterns, farming systems, and locally available resources generates valuable lessons on how permaculture supports resilient and diversified food systems under changing climatic conditions.

The side event will highlight permaculture as a practical framework for operationalizing agroecology through whole farm and community system design. It will showcase farmer-led innovations, demonstrate the role of local champions in driving food systems transformation, and explore how community knowledge can inform policy implementation at both county and national levels. The session will also examine emerging policy opportunities, including the enactment of Vihiga County's agroecology policy and collaborative partnerships supporting agroecology in Makueni County, illustrating how local governance can create enabling environments for agroecological transition.

Host: Biogardening Innovations (BIOGI)



7.Title: Strengthening Farmer-Led Research and Knowledge Co-Creation for Healthy Soils and Climate-Resilient Agroecology

This side event will showcase how Participatory Action Research (PAR) and collaborative partnerships among farmers, civil society, and academia can accelerate agroecological transformation and improve soil health. Led by Bio Gardening Innovations (BIOGI), the session will highlight experiences from the Healthy Soil Healthy Food (HSHF) initiative implemented with AFSA, McKnight Foundation, and Maseno University.

The event will present lessons from farmer-led research on biofertilizers, bioprotectors, and diversified cropping systems that have strengthened soil fertility, climate resilience, and livelihoods among smallholder farmers in western Kenya. Participants will explore how knowledge co-creation, indigenous practices, and university-community partnerships can generate evidence to inform policy, strengthen extension systems, and promote wider adoption of agroecological practices. The discussion will also provide recommendations for scaling farmer-centred research and integrating agroecological innovations into national agricultural policies and programmes.

Host: ISFAA, MOALD, and PELUM Kenya



Ministry of Agriculture and
Livestock Development



8.Title: Mainstreaming Entrepreneurship in Agroecology

Entrepreneurs are essential to scaling agroecology by transforming knowledge into accessible products, services, and markets for farmers. However, businesses in the organic inputs sector continue to face regulatory, administrative, and market-access barriers that limit growth and slow agroecology adoption. This side event will highlight the critical role of entrepreneurs in driving agroecological transformation and present findings from the policy brief, Cultivating an Enabling Business Environment for the Organic Inputs Sector, including recommendations to address these barriers. Participants will also learn about ongoing advocacy efforts by the ISFAA Private Sector and Consumers Thematic Working Group to improve regulations, expand market access for organic produce, and strengthen collaboration among entrepreneurs, regulators, retailers, and policymakers. The session aims to build support for integrating entrepreneurship into agroecology strategies as a key pathway for scaling sustainable food systems.

Host: Nakuru Living Lab (NLL), hosted by Egerton University under the REFOOTURE II Project,



9. Title: Community-led innovation and learning in promoting Regenerative, Inclusive Food Systems in Nakuru

Nakuru Living Lab (NLL), hosted by Egerton University under the REFOOTURE II Project, serves as a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together farmers, youth, researchers, innovators, community institutions, private, NGOs and local government actors to co-create regenerative, inclusive solutions in the food systems. Through the Food System Innovation Platform (FSIP), the initiative has catalyzed transformative change across livelihoods, food and nutrition security, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion.

As Kenya advances the implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST 2024–2033), there is a growing need to showcase practical examples of community-driven agroecological transformation. The NLL side event will provide a platform for sharing experiences, innovations, evidence, and lessons emerging from the Refooture project's FSIP while strengthening the voices of farmers, youth, women, and local innovators in food systems transformation process.

Host: WingFarm Organization, ISFAA, (ISFAA) Youth Caucus, Youth in Agrifood Systems Organizations, The Alliance of Bioersity and CIAT, and PELUM Kenya



10. Title: Youth Shaping Transformation of Agrifood Systems through Agroecology

Young people continue to face challenges related to high unemployment, limited access to productive resources, climate change, declining land availability, and exclusion from decision-making processes. At the same time, the agricultural sector is characterized by an ageing farmer population, raising concerns about the future sustainability of food systems and the transfer of agricultural knowledge and skills between generations. Yet young people remain central to the future of food systems, biodiversity conservation, and rural development. With the right policies, investments, and support systems, agrifood systems can provide decent employment, entrepreneurship, and leadership opportunities for youth while accelerating the transition towards resilient and sustainable food systems.

The overall goal is to strengthen meaningful youth participation in agroecological transitions and agrifood systems transformation by fostering knowledge exchange, partnerships, and policy engagement that advance resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems in Kenya. The side event aims to provide an important opportunity to place youth at the centre of agroecological transformation. However, national policy and forums often remain inaccessible or insufficiently engage young people, limiting their meaningful participation and contribution. As a result, youth perspectives, innovations, and lived experiences are frequently underrepresented in discussions that shape the future of agriculture and food systems.

In response, the Youth Agroecology Corner and Action Lab aims to create a dedicated youth-friendly space to ensure that young people engage meaningfully with policymakers, practitioners, and development partners, while sharing their experiences, showcasing innovations, influencing policy discussions, and contributing to Kenya's agroecological transition.

Host: Route to Food Initiative and PELUM Kenya Side Event

11. Title: From Policy to Implementation: Are County Agroecology Commitments Translating into Action for Farmers and Communities?

County governments have an important role in advancing agroecology in Kenya. Today, many counties have developed policies or strategies while others have integrated agroecology into county planning, budgeting and agricultural programmes. As these efforts grow, there is a need to understand what implementation looks like in practice, what lessons are emerging, and how counties can learn from one another.

The Policy to Implementation side event will create an interactive space for counties to showcase their work, exchange experiences and engage directly with conference participants. Rather than focusing only on policy, the session will highlight practical experiences, innovations, challenges and lessons from implementation. It will also provide an opportunity for dialogue between county governments, civil society, farmers and development partners on how to strengthen agroecology implementation at the county level. The sideevent objective is to provide a platform for counties to showcase their agroecology initiatives, exchange implementation experiences, and promote peer learning and dialogue on strengthening county agroecology programmes.

Host : GROOTS Kenya and Hivos

12. Title: How Grassroots Women Are Leading Kenya's Agroecology Transformation

Across Kenya's rural communities, grassroots women are driving one of the most consequential shifts in how the country grows its food. They are farmers and seed savers, custodians of generations of indigenous knowledge, stewards of natural resources, and trusted leaders within their communities. Their work sits at the heart of building food systems that are sustainable and able to withstand shocks. Yet despite this central role, women still face steep barriers, especially in securing land, financing, extension support, market access, and reliable information that hold back the scale of impact their leadership could otherwise achieve.

The Rural Women Cultivating Change (RWCC) Programme is GROOTS Kenya's and HIVOS answer to that gap. Working alongside more than 320 grassroots women's groups across the country, the programme builds women's leadership in agroecology, widens access to information, and embeds gender-transformative thinking into how food systems work is designed and delivered. At its core are the Gender Transformative

Agroecology (GTA) Modules, a practical tool that brings women farmers, community leaders, extension officers, and other stakeholders together to confront the social and gender norms that limit women's voice and decision-making in agriculture.

This side event brings that grassroots evidence into the room. It is an invitation to see, in concrete terms, how organized women's movements are reshaping agroecology, strengthening the resilience of their communities, and influencing policy and practice from the village level all the way to national strategy.

The side events aims to:

- Spotlight the role grassroots women's movements play in advancing agroecological practices and sustainable food systems.
- Unpack the barriers and opportunities shaping women's access to productive resources, including land rights, agroecology financing, and investment mechanisms.
- Share real experiences and hard-won lessons from rolling out the Gender Transformative Agroecology Modules under the RWCC Programme.
- Present evidence gathered from over 320 grassroots women's groups and discuss what it means for policy, programming, and scaling agroecology across Kenya.
- Strengthen partnerships between grassroots movements, government agencies, extension services, donors, and development partners in advancing inclusive agroecological transitions.



Explore the Innovation Gallery
Scan the QR Code to view the
submitted innovations





Contact Us:

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association Kenya Noted.
K.U. Boma Estate , House No 114, Along Kenyatta Rd, off Thika Superhighway
P.O. Box 6123 -01000, Thika, Kenya

Office Tel: +254 709 746 939 E- mail: info@pelumkenya.net Website: www.pelumkenya.net