



# 1<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM, NAIROBI - KENYA FROM 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## CALL FOR ABSTRACT FOR PAPERS, POSTERS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Organizing Committee of the National Agroecology Symposium would like to invite participants to the National Agroecology Symposium to be held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The invitation is extended to the public/ individuals, students, private sector, media, researchers, farmers, organizations, networks and all stakeholders to register for participation.

The National Agroecology Symposium aims to catalyze a transformative dialogue toward a sustainable food system transition in Kenya. By promoting partnerships, sharing knowledge, and engaging stakeholders, the symposium will serve as a platform to promote agroecology as a key strategy for food and nutrition security, food sovereignty, environmental sustainability and climate resilience. This comes at an important time when Kenya has its draft National Agroecology strategy for Food Systems Transformation.

The symposium will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 6<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and will include exhibitions, plenary and breakout sessions. The conference will be a hybrid event comprising in-person attendance and livestreaming for online participants.

**Symposium Title: The 1st National Agroecology Symposium, Kenya**

**Symposium Theme: Sustainable Future: Advancing Agroecology for Food Sovereignty and Climate Resilience**

### **Specific Objectives of the Symposium**

The symposium will focus on the following objectives:

1. Identify opportunities, strategies, and challenges for formulating and implementing agroecology policies at national and county levels.
2. Share and advance best practices in soil health, water management, biodiversity conservation, integrated pest management, bio-circular economy, bio inputs, indigenous knowledge, and participatory approaches.
3. Explore financing mechanisms, develop markets for agroecological products, improve certification processes, and facilitate access to agroecological and organic inputs.
4. Strengthen the use of research findings to inform policies, financial mechanisms, and incentives for agroecology through participatory research with farmers.
5. Harness the potential of youth and women to lead and drive agroecology initiatives.

## **Proposed Focus Areas**

### **1. Policy and Governance:**

- Opportunities, strategies, and challenges in the formulation and implementation of agroecology policies at the national and county levels.
- Modalities for incorporating agroecology into national agricultural frameworks and local governance structures

### **2. Agroecological Practices for Food Security and Climate Resilience:**

- Best practices in soil health management, water conservation, biodiversity enhancement, integrated pest management, and bio-circular economy for strengthening climate resilience.
- Scaling up and utilization of bio and organic inputs.
- Participatory approaches in agroecological development.
- Co creation and utilization of Indigenous knowledge.
- Agroecology for food safety, nutrition and right to food

### **3. Finance and Markets for Agroecology Transition:**

- Finance mechanisms for agroecology, including innovative funding models, microfinance, and public-private partnerships.
- Development of local/territorial markets for agroecological produce and the role of certification in ensuring market access.
- Financing/Scaling up production and access, of bio and organic inputs.

### **4. Scientific Evidence and Innovation of Agroecology:**

- Synthesizing existing research to support agroecology policies, financing, and incentive structures.
- Engaging academic and research institutions in generating evidence-based solutions for agroecological challenges.
- Engaging farmers in participatory research in support for Agroecology.
- Improving farmer livelihoods based on evidence approach

### **5. Women, Youth and PWDs in Agroecology:**

- Tapping into the potential of youth and women to drive agroecological transitions.
- Developing tailored training and capacity-building programs to empower women and youth in agroecology.

## **Expected Results**

### **1. Policy Recommendations:**

- Develop actionable policy recommendations for integrating agroecology into national and county-level agricultural policies.

### **2. Knowledge Dissemination:**

- Publish symposium proceedings and best practices to accelerate the adoption of agroecological practices across the country.

### **3. Partnership Opportunities:**

- Establish networks and collaborations among stakeholders, including government, private sector, CSOs, and international partners.

## **Target Groups**

The symposium will bring together over 300 participants and 50 exhibitors from various regions of the Country. Specifically, the participants will include:

- Policy makers and governments, representatives from both County and National governments.
- Organizations and initiatives working towards food systems transformation.
- Farmers and Farmer Organizations
- Civil Society Organizations including consumer associations
- Private sector

- Strategic partners and donor agencies
- Academia and research institutions
- Students
- Media

The Organizing Committee of the National Agroecology Symposium invites calls for abstracts for papers, posters and exhibitions from interested researchers and practitioners.

### **Type of abstracts for papers, posters and exhibitions**

The conference will be hybrid to provide an opportunity for researchers and academia to present their work and for farmers, practitioners and policymakers to share their experiences and/or advocate for certain interventions and pathways. The conference will therefore accept abstracts and posters within the following categories:

1. Traditional academic/research abstracts,
2. Practitioners' views and experiences
3. Policy briefs.
4. Creative arts (spoken word, animations, music, graffiti, dance, paintings etc.)
5. Exhibitions and side events

## **Abstract submissions should be structured as follows;**

### **For Papers and Posters**

#### **1. Theme Selection**

Participants will be invited to choose from the key themes identified for the symposium. These themes cover critical areas such as policy and governance, agroecological practices for climate resilience, financing and market development, scientific evidence, and the role of women and youth in agroecology. By selecting a theme, participants can focus their concept papers on specific areas of interest or expertise, ensuring that their contributions are aligned with the symposium's objectives.

#### **Guidance for Theme Selection:**

- Participants should select a theme that best matches their knowledge, experience, or area of work.
- Participants can choose to focus on a single theme or explore the intersections between multiple themes, depending on their interest and expertise.

#### **2. Abstract Structure;**

This structure will include specific sections that participants must address in their papers such as;

- **Introduction:** An overview of the issue or challenge the paper will address within the selected theme.
- **Objectives:** Clear statements of what the concept paper aims to achieve.
- **Methodology:** A detailed explanation of the approach, techniques, or methods the participant will use to address the issue.
- **Expected Outcomes:** A description of the anticipated results or impacts of the proposed ideas or solutions.
- **Alignment with Symposium Goals:** An explanation of how the proposal contributes to the broader objectives of the symposium, such as promoting sustainable agriculture, enhancing food security, or empowering women and youth.

### **For Exhibitions and Side Events**

Kindly attach detailed description of the exhibition or side event, including all organizing partners, elements of the exhibition/side event, dimensions and the thematic focus.

### **Submission deadline:**

- Sending out a call for abstracts: 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024.
- Deadline for abstract submission: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024
- Communication to accepted abstracts and call for full papers: 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024
- Receipt of full papers: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Publication of final symposium program and abstracts: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

### **SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION**

The planning committee of the National Agroecology Conference to be held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in Nairobi wishes to invite individuals, organizations and networks to this great conference to register for participation.

Early bird registration by 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 will get a discount as per the table below.

### **CONFERENCE FEES**

<b>Delegate Type</b>	<b>Amount in USD</b>	<b>Early Bird Registration</b>
<b>Participants attending physical conference</b>	150 USD	100 USD
<b>Participants attending virtually</b>	100 USD	50 USD
<b>Students</b>	50 USD	30 USD
<b>Farmers</b>	50 USD	30 USD
<b>Exhibitions</b>	200 USD	150 USD
<b>Side Event</b>	350 USD	300 USD

**Note: The deadline for registration is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

Please make cheques payable to "PELUM Kenya".

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Account number: **2029491731**.

For more information on registration fees and how to register, visit the conference website [www.pelumkenya.net](http://www.pelumkenya.net) or send us an email to [events@pelumkenya.net](mailto:events@pelumkenya.net)

### **Organizers**

The National Agroecology Symposium is organized by PELUM Kenya in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, We Effect, ISFAA, GIZ, Ripple Effect, WWF, Biovision Africa Trust, ActionAid International, Fastenopfer, Biovision Foundation, Hand in Hand Eastern Africa, APHRC and other partners