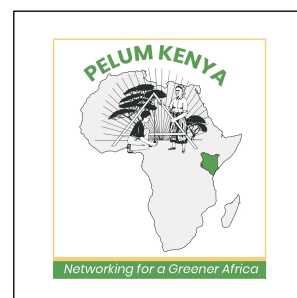


**Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association
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TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Consultancy to Assess the Domestication and Implementation of the Kenya National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST 2024–2033) at National and County Levels

1. Introductions

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association is an indigenous African network with over 250 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from 12 African Countries, namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa, Malawi, Swaziland and Rwanda.

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network that currently comprises 68 member organizations located in 47 Counties. The 68 members of PELUM Kenya are in the four (4) PELUM Kenya zones: Nairobi and Central, Rift and Western, Lower Eastern and Coast, Upper Eastern and Northern Zone.

The vision of PELUM Kenya is to empower prosperous, healthy and resilient communities in Kenya. The Mission is to promote agroecological principles and practices through member organizations for the sustainable livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralist communities in Kenya. It is, however, essential to note that PELUM Kenya does not work directly with the farmers but through the member organizations.

2. Background

Kenya developed the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST 2024–2033) to guide the transition towards sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems. Following the development of the Strategy, the national Government and several county governments initiated processes to implement the NAS and/or domesticate agroecology through county policies, strategies, as well as integration in various relevant policies.

While five counties have developed agroecology policies, implementation levels vary significantly. Other counties have made substantial progress in policy development, while others have not initiated domestication processes or have experienced delays and stagnation over several years. In addition, frequent changes in political leadership and government structures continue to affect the continuity and sustainability of agroecology initiatives.

Therefore, there is a need to undertake an assessment to document the level of domestication and implementation of NAS-FST at both national and county levels, identify lessons learnt, best practices,

key challenges, and strategies used to overcome those challenges. The consultancy will also propose sustainable institutional and governance structures necessary to ensure long-term implementation of agroecology policies despite political transitions and changing government priorities.

3. Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to assess the progress of domestication and implementation of the Kenya National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST 2024–2033) at national and county levels, and provide recommendations on institutional, governance, funding, and policy and practice mechanisms required to strengthen sustainable implementation.

4. Specific Objectives

The consultant will:

- i. Assess the current level of domestication and implementation of NAS-FST at the national and county levels.
- ii. Identify and document (what works):
 - o Lessons learnt;
 - o Best practices;
 - o Success factors;
 - o Challenges encountered;
 - o Strategies used to overcome challenges.
- iii. Assess counties and institutions where domestication or implementation has stalled or not commenced, and determine:
 - o Reasons for delays or non-implementation;
 - o Institutional, political, technical, financial, or governance barriers;
 - o Recommendations for revitalization and acceleration.
- iv. Analyze the effectiveness of existing institutional and governance frameworks supporting agroecology implementation.
- v. Propose institutional structures, coordination mechanisms, funding, and other governance arrangements required to ensure continuity and sustainability of agroecology policy implementation despite frequent government and leadership changes.
- vi. Identify foreseeable barriers to the implementation of agroecology policies and strategies and recommend mitigation measures.
- vii. Provide actionable recommendations for strengthening national and county agroecology implementation frameworks.

5. Scope of Work

The consultant shall undertake the following tasks:

a) Desk Review

Review relevant documents, including but not limited to:

- NAS-FST 2024–2033;
- County agroecology policies and strategies;

- County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs);
- Annual Development Plans (ADPs);
- Agriculture sector plans;
- Existing implementation reports;
- Relevant laws, regulations, and institutional frameworks.

b) Stakeholder Consultations

Conduct consultations with relevant institutions including:

- National government ministries and agencies;
- County governments;
- County assemblies;
- Development partners;
- Civil society organizations;
- Farmer organizations;
- Research institutions;
- Higher learning institutions (Universities and colleges)
- Private sector actors;
- Agroecology practitioners and networks.

c) Assessment of Domestication and Implementation

Evaluate:

- Status of county agroecology policies and strategies;
- Budget allocation and financing mechanisms (government, private sector CSO, donors, philanthropies, etc);
- Institutional coordination mechanisms;
- Integration into county planning systems;
- Monitoring and accountability systems;
- Political and technical support.

d) Documentation of Lessons and Best Practices

Document:

- Successful implementation models;
- Effective institutional arrangements;
- Community participation approaches;
- Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms;
- Financing and resource mobilization models;
- Advocacy and political engagement approaches.

e) Institutional and Governance Analysis

Assess existing institutional arrangements and propose:

- Sustainable institutional structures;
- Coordination and accountability frameworks;
- Intergovernmental coordination mechanisms;
- Legal and policy safeguards;
- Mechanisms for continuity during political transitions;
- Structures for citizen and farmer participation.

f) Risk and Barrier Analysis

Identify foreseeable barriers including:

- Political transitions;
- Limited financing;
- Weak institutional coordination;
- Low technical capacity;
- Policy inconsistencies;
- Limited public awareness;
- Resistance from vested interests;
- Weak monitoring systems.

Provide mitigation and sustainability strategies.

6. Key Deliverables

The consultant shall provide the following deliverables:

- i. **Inception Report**
Including methodology, workplan, stakeholder mapping, and data collection tools.
- ii. **Draft Assessment Report**
Covering:
 - Status of domestication and implementation;
 - Lessons learnt and best practices;
 - Challenges and recommendations;
 - Institutional and governance analysis;
 - Risk and barrier assessment.
- iii. **Validation Workshop Presentation**
Presentation of findings to stakeholders for validation.
- iv. **Final Report**
Incorporating stakeholder feedback and providing actionable recommendations.
- v. **Policy Brief**
Summarizing key findings and recommendations for policymakers.

7. Methodology

The consultant is expected to apply a participatory and mixed-methods approach

8. Key qualifications, experience, and skills of the consultant

The candidate should possess the following skills and competencies:

- a) Have a postgraduate university degree in social sciences, political science, agriculture , environment, or any other relevant discipline.
- b) Demonstrated experience in policy analysis and institutional assessments
- c) Strong understanding of Kenya's devolved governance system
- d) Knowledge of policy and laws implementation, policy analysis, agriculture investing, and sustainable agriculture practices.
- e) Demonstrated experience of having undertaken similar work in the past. Indicate at least three similar assignments with references.
- f) Strong communication skills and ability to liaise with various stakeholders, including government officials, civil society, private sector, farmer organizations, research and academia, donors, etc.
- g) Excellent analytical and report writing skills.

9. Duration of task completion

The assignment is estimated to begin by 15th July 2026 and be completed by the end of 30th August 2026.

10. Management of the Consultancy

The consultant will work closely with the PELUM Kenya programme officer in charge of Policy Advocacy. All deliverables will be submitted to PELUM Kenya Programme Policy Advocacy officer on a date mutually agreed upon during the inception meeting. The advocacy committee and program team will review the reports. All draft documents will be submitted as soft copies.

11. Procedure for submission of expression of interest

Interested consultants should submit the documents by **5 pm on 5th July, 2026**, to procurement@pelumkenya.net

- i) (An application letter) and contact information for three work-related referees
- ii) A technical and financial proposal
- iii) 3 Samples of similar work undertaken in the past 5 years

Applications must include all of the above information to be reviewed. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.