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Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development

COUNTY-LEVEL DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR THE NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY STRATEGY FOR FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION (2024-2033)

February 2026



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FOREWORD

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development recognizes that the future of Kenya's food systems lies in adopting approaches that restore our ecosystems, support livelihoods, and enhance resilience to climate change. The development of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033) is a testament to this vision and offers a robust framework for aligning the implementation of the Vision 2030, Agricultural Policy (2021), the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS), and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) with the principles of agroecology.

The successful transformation of Kenya's agri-food systems cannot be achieved without the meaningful participation of County Governments. Devolution has created the unique opportunity to localize national priorities, strengthen inclusive development, and promote context-specific interventions. In line with this, the Strategy places County Governments at the forefront of its implementation.

This County-Level Implementation Guide is a key companion document to the national Strategy. It serves to support counties in interpreting, domesticating, and implementing the NAS-FST in alignment with their local policies, plans, institutions, and food system context. It outlines practical domestication pathways, from policy formulation to development of action plans. It emphasizes stakeholder participation, advocacy, extension and advisory services, financing, capacity development, risk management, and monitoring and evaluation.

The process of developing this Guide was consultative, drawing on the experiences of counties, technical experts, farmer groups, and other key actors. It is our hope that it will catalyze transformative action at the local level and support counties to champion the shift toward sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems. This Guide has been developed collaboratively with the Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA), County Governments, development partners, farmer organizations, and research institutions.

We acknowledge PELUM Kenya and GIZ Global Programme Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies (AgSys) for the invaluable contributions of all partners and stakeholders who supported the development of this Guide. We PELUM who provided the resources that enabled various stakeholders to participate in giving input and validating the document and Mr. David Ombalo of the Policy Unit, State Department for Agriculture who led the development process.

Your insights and commitment continue to shape Kenya's future in adopting and mainstreaming agroecology.

We urge all county stakeholders to adopt and apply this Guide, and to work in concert to scale agroecology innovations that are grounded in local realities and driven by collective commitment. Together, we can transform our food systems to be more just, inclusive, and sustainable.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (2024–2033) aims to transition Kenya’s food systems towards sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity through the adoption and scaling of agroecology principles and practices. Recognizing the central role of counties in driving agricultural transformation, this County-Level Implementation Guide has been developed to support the domestication and operationalization of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation, 2024 - 2033 (NAS-FST) at the devolved level of government.

This Guide provides a comprehensive roadmap for counties to adapt, integrate, and implement the NAS-FST within their unique contexts.

It outlines practical steps for policy alignment, institutional arrangements, stakeholder coordination, capacity building, resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation.

Key features of the Guide include identification of domestication pathways based on county readiness that include policy development, strategy formulation, or implementation action plans; integration of identified pathways with County Planning Frameworks such as County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) and Annual Development Plans (ADPs); stakeholder sensitization, advocacy, and establishment of technical working groups to anchor implementation; strengthening extension services and research; leveraging digital tools and inclusive communication strategies; financing models, including public budgets, development partnerships, and private sector investment. In addition, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems aligned with national indicators and phased implementation roadmap from planning to institutionalization is addressed.

The Guide is intended for use by County Governments, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), development partners, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions, and private sector actors. It represents a critical step toward achieving resilient, productive, and climate-smart agri-food systems in Kenya.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	Annual Development Plan
AE	Agroecology
ASTGS	Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy
BETA	Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CASSCOM	County Agricultural Sector Steering and Coordination Mechanism
CEC	County Executive Committee Member
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CFSP	County Fiscal Strategy Paper
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EOA	Ecological Organic Agriculture
EMCA	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FMSS	Farmer Managed Seed Systems
ISFAA	Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology
KIAMIS	Kenya Integrated Agriculture Management Information System
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Platform
NAS-FST	National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PELUM Kenya	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PESTEL	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, and Legal analysis
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
TAPE	FAO Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation
TWC	Technical Working Committee
TWG	Technical Working Group

CHAPTER

1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Kenya's food production system, which includes agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fishing, is characterized by low and declining productivity associated with poor soil health, poor agricultural practices, deteriorating ecological status of the environment and climate change. Agroecology presents an opportunity to address many of the challenges facing our food system in a manner that is eco-friendly, resilient, and just. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, the Inter-sectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA) and other stakeholders prioritized the development of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST) 2024-2033.
- 1.1.2 Implementation of developed agricultural policies, strategies and legal frameworks has been weak due to several factors including inadequate guidance on the contextualization and implementation by actors. To facilitate the implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST), this Guide has been developed to inform the domestication and implementation of the NAS-FST at the County level.

1.2 Purpose and Objective of the NAS-FST Domestication and Implementation Guide

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this Guide is to provide a framework for domestication and implementation of the NAS-FST at the county level.
- 1.2.2 The Objective of this Guide is to facilitate effective domestication and implementation of the NAS-FST at the county level.

1.3 Target Audience

- 1.3.1 This guide targets actors involved in the implementation of NAS-FST strategic interventions at the county level. The primary target audience is the County Governments while Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Farmer Organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith based organizations (FBOs), Research and academia, Private sector actors and Development partners are the secondary audience.

1.4 Scope of the NAS-FST Implementation Guide

This guide covers steps and procedures to be followed by State and non-State actors to adopt and implement the NAS-FST at the Counties.



CHAPTER

2

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL AND COUNTY PLANNING FRAMEWORKS

To effectively mainstream the principles of agroecology in agri-food systems, which is the focus of NAS-FST for implementation at the County level, it is first important to align National and County agricultural policy and planning frameworks. This will entail:

- a) Contextualizing the National Strategy through review and establishing a clear understanding of the NAS-FST
- b) Analysis of National-level Policy and legal context frameworks relating to agri-food systems transformation.
- c) Identifying existing county-specific gaps in the frameworks and areas of implementation that need interventions.
- d) Identifying the best pathways for domesticating both National Policies and laws and addressing the existing gaps.

2.1 Contextualizing the NAS-FST

The NAS-FST 2024-2033 is a means of mainstreaming agroecology principles into National and County level policies and programs. Rather than introducing standalone interventions, the NAS-FST 2024-2033 strengthens existing policy actions to ensure agro-ecology contributes effectively to the achievement of sustainable agri-food systems. It is therefore necessary that any process in adopting and using this County-Level Implementation Guide is preceded by a clear understanding and contextualization of the NAS-FST 2024-2033.

2.2 Analysis of National-level Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks

- 2.2.1 The National-level agri-food, environmental, health and education policies and legal frameworks provide the context with which Counties align their policy reform documents. An analysis of alignment with these frameworks should inform domestication and implementation of the NAS-FST at the County level.
- 2.2.2 In addition to identifying the relevant policies and laws, it will be important to assess the institutional setups that govern agri-food systems. This will include regulatory agencies at the national and county-level, non-state actors such as stakeholders'/value chain actors' associations and civil society organizations. An understanding of the institutional framework will shade light on responsibilities and influence of actors in agroecology at the national level to support county actors in implementation of the Strategy. A Stakeholders' Analysis Matrix or any other tool may be used to for this purpose.

2.3 Analysis of County-Level policies and legal frameworks

An analysis of County policy and legal framework on their alignment with the NAS-FST and other National policy and legal frameworks on agroecology. This should focus on examining the following documents for inclusion or gaps on the same;

1. County Integrated Development Plans,
2. County Fiscal Strategy Paper,
3. Annual Development Plans,
4. Performance Contract,
5. Annual work plans and
6. Relevant County specific policies and legislation

An assessment of gaps and opportunities in existing county policies and legal frameworks by analyzing the extent to which agroecology is mainstreamed at the County-level should also focus on the County's priorities for achieving sustainable food systems and status of Agroecology implementation.

CHAPTER

3

PATHWAYS FOR DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NAS-FST

This section outlines practical pathways for counties to domesticate and implement the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST). Drawing from the county assessments in Section 2, these options account for varying levels of agroecology adoption, institutional readiness, and contextual priorities, enabling tailored, progressive advancement.

3.1 Flexible Pathways for County-Level Agroecology Mainstreaming

Counties can select from five distinct pathways—or combine them—to mainstream agroecology, guided by their current adoption level, institutional capacity, resource availability, and alignment with the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST). Each pathway offers tailored entry points, from comprehensive policy development to immediate action, enabling progressive implementation while building stakeholder buy-in and long-term sustainability.

3.1.1 Pathway One: Development of a dedicated County-specific Agroecology Policy.

Guiding parameter – Agroecology is not mainstreamed in current guiding policy documents and Agroecology implementation in the County is weak or non-existent.

Pathway One Characteristics:

- (a) Developing a policy creates broad stakeholder ownership by County Government leadership and structures such as County Executive Committee and County Assembly;
- (b) Easily allows initiation and enactment of County-specific legislation;
- (c) It is a complex process, budget intensive and time consuming, require elaborate sensitization and securing of support from key decision-makers before development;
- (d) Counties developing agroecology policies will need to follow the public policy making cycle as outlined in the Public Policy Handbook of 2024;
- (e) After finalizing the policy, Counties may need to develop a strategy document and action plan to help with the implementation as policies are very broad statements of intention; and,
- (f) It allows for medium to longer term planning.

3.1.2 Pathway Two: Development of a County Agroecology Strategy

Guiding parameter – Agroecology is already practiced but with no dedicated and guiding County-specific Strategy.

Pathway Two Characteristics:

- (a) A County-specific Strategy easily outlines context-specific solutions and prioritize actionable areas while providing targets, responsibilities, timelines and a clear results framework for achieving the desired objective
- (b) Easier and quicker in development, adoption and implementation;
- (c) Should be a preferred option for Counties that need to quickly deliver on agroecology interventions without being encumbered by the intricate policy development processes; and,
- (d) For counties without an agro-ecology policy this pathway may be difficult to come up with a legislation.

3.1.3 **Pathway Three:** Development of an Action Plan (Preferably 1 year)

Guiding parameter – need by County to move directly to implementation based on the National Strategy without the encumbrances of developing additional county policy reform documents.

Pathway Three Characteristics:

- (a) Counties can directly implement actionable areas drawing from the NAS-FST with minimal alignments based on the county context and priorities;
- (b) The pathway may allow counties that have not developed or in process of developing policies to move straight to initiating AE actions;
- (c) Counties with immediate resources and time constraints may start with an Implementation Action Plan under existing policies and later incorporate in the next CIDP cycle; and,
- (d) A preferred option for Counties that want to immediately implement NAS-FST or do not want to wait for development of County AE policy or strategy.

3.1.4 **Pathway Four:** Formulation and implementation of a dedicated Agroecology Project based on NAS-FST.

Guiding parameter – Agroecology implementation requires targeted, time-bound interventions with defined funding and partnerships, suitable for counties with available project resources but limited capacity for broader policy or strategy development..

Pathway Four Characteristics:

- (a) Focuses on specific, funded projects aligned with NAS-FST priorities, enabling rapid piloting of agroecology practices;
- (b) Simpler and faster to initiate than policies or strategies, leveraging external funding, NGOs, or development partners;
- (c) Ideal for counties testing agroecology at scale in pilot areas before wider rollout;
- (d) Allows integration into existing programs without needing new legislation, but may require evaluation for scaling.

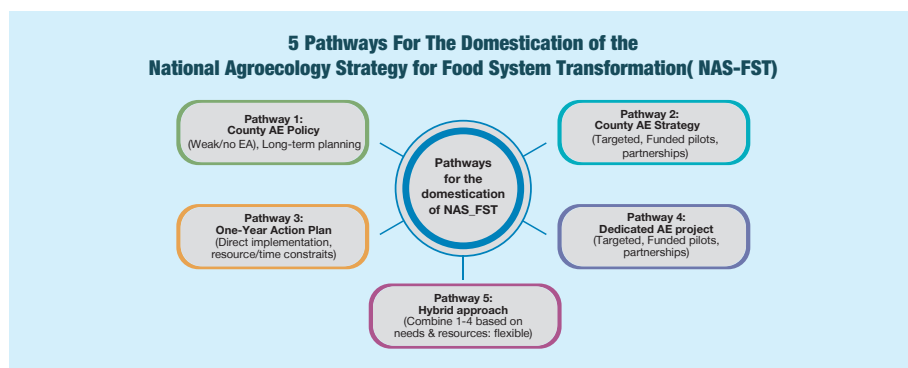
3.1.5 **Pathway Five:** Development and implementation of hybrid approach to agroecology based on a policy, strategy or an action plan.

Guiding parameter: need to allow counties to hybridize an option that consider of the policy, strategy and an action plan .

Pathway five Characteristics:

- (a) It allows flexibility to adopt pathway 1,2 or 3 based on the county needs and priorities; and,
- (b) It allows Counties to leverage on available resources.

Fig. 1 Domestication Pathways for the NAS-FST



3.2 **Key Considerations for Selection of a pathway for mainstreaming Agroecology**

In summary the key Considerations for prioritizing a pathway for mainstreaming Agroecology are as follows:

- (a) Extent of policy and legal frameworks alignment
- (b) Extent of mainstreaming of AE practices at the County level
- (c) Time availability considering lengthy policy cycles.
- (d) Resources availability for the pathway option selected.
- (e) Stakeholder support and buy-in.

CHAPTER

4

COUNTY PLANNING AND PRIORITIZATION

Once a county has identified a preferred pathway under Section 3 of the Guide, the next phase is planning and prioritizing strategies. County planning involves stakeholders mapping and sensitization; conducting situation analysis; prioritizing intervention areas and aligning priorities with NAS-FST. These aspects of county planning and prioritization are considered in turn below.

4.1 Stakeholder Mapping and Sensitization

- 4.1.1 Undertake stakeholder mapping and sensitization to provide the foundation for building trust, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that agroecology initiatives are inclusive, context-specific, and effectively supported by all key actors
- 4.1.2 The following are the key steps for undertaking stakeholder mapping and sensitization:

Step One: Define Objectives and Scope to clarify the purpose of the mapping exercise (e.g., to inform policy, program design or partnership building).

Step Two: Identify Stakeholders by listing all relevant actors involved or interested in agroecology, including such as Government institutions at county and national, farmer organizations and cooperatives, NGOs and civil society organizations, private sector actors (input suppliers, processors, marketers), research and academic institutions and development partners and donors.

Step Three: Analyze Stakeholder roles and influence by focus areas, capacity, and influence in the agroecology space and map interactions and networks to understand collaboration and partnership patterns, clusters, and gaps. This may employ stakeholder mapping matrix and Stakeholder mapping dashboard for agroecology.

Step Four: Develop stakeholder engagement strategies based on mapping insights, design tailored engagement and sensitization plans to involve stakeholders meaningfully using inclusive approaches that reach marginalized groups, women, and youth.

4.2 Conducting Situational Analysis

4.2.1 Together with a multi-sectoral team of stakeholders, use relevant tools such as PESTEL, SWOT or stakeholder analysis to assess and determine gaps and how Agroecology can address them, including in the following parameters:

- (a) Key value chains;
- (b) Climate change impacts;
- (c) Vulnerability levels; and
- (d) Ongoing/flagship projects.

4.3 Prioritizing interventions

4.3.1 Prioritization of interventions to address the identified gaps will require an inclusive and transparent approach for greater ownership by stakeholders.

4.3.2 The prioritization will follow four key steps:

Step One: Scoping: Define the set of interventions to be prioritized in relation to each other.

Step Two: Criteria selection: Agree on a list of criteria to be used to prioritize interventions, and agree on their weight according to participants of the prioritization exercise.

Step Three: Assessment: Assess the performance of each option against each criterion. The assessment of options can be qualitative or rely on experts' assessment.

Step Four: Intervention prioritization: There are various methods for interpreting the criteria assessment and selecting interventions, which can also be used alone or in combination. Such tools may include pairwise ranking or agreement by consensus.

4.4 Aligning Priorities with NAS-FST

4.4.1 Check and place the County priorities against NAS-FST broader Strategic objectives and style county-specific strategy interventions aligned, with necessary modification, to the National Strategy. Below is a summary of the NAS-FST Strategic Objectives for use in the alignment:

Strategic objective 1: Transition to resilient and sustainable food systems through agroecology:

- (a) Resource use efficiency and productivity
- (b) Use of locally produced agroecological input
- (c) Integrate ecosystem restoration
- (d) Use of indigenous/locally managed seeds and livestock breeds

Strategic Objective 2: Sustainable consumption and transition towards healthy, diverse and sustainable diets for all:

- (a) Food safety approaches/interventions
- (b) Circular economy
- (c) Consumption of indigenous food and protection of food culture

Strategic Objective 3: Enabling environments and incentives for scaling up agroecology

- (a) Policy, legal and institutional framework
- (b) Sustainable financial models
- (c) Support incentives
- (d) Value addition, markets and trade

Strategic Objective 4: Research, innovation, training and co creation

- (a) Extension services and centers of excellence
- (b) Indigenous technical knowledge
- (c) Collaboration with local colleges/universities and TVETs

Strategic Objective 5: Social Equity, inclusion and participatory governance

- (a) Access and control of productive resources of marginalized groups
- (b) Equitable participation



CHAPTER

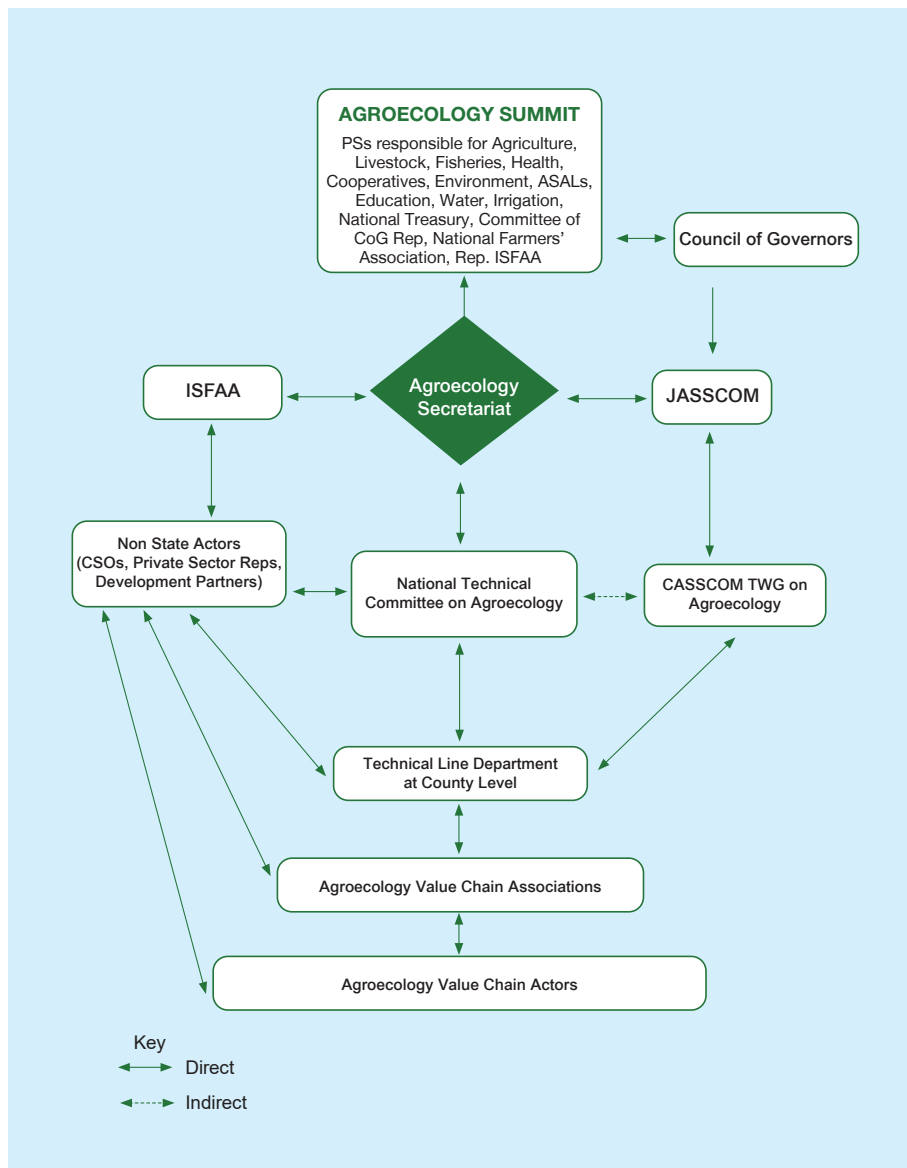
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INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Linkage between National and County Implementation Coordination Structures

- 5.1.1 This section highlights institutional arrangements and mechanisms required at the county level for the domestication and implementation of agroecology interventions.
- 5.1.2 Efforts to synergize strategy and interventions in agroecology and related sectors require robust coordination mechanisms to align actors, harmonize activities, and maximize impact across all prioritized areas so as to ensure optimal use of resources, minimize duplication and for sustained collective action toward shared goals.
- 5.1.3 The domestication and implementation of the NAS-FST should involve various state and non-state actors at both at national, intergovernmental and county levels as illustrated in figure 1. Reference should be made to Chapter 4 of the NAS-FST to familiarize with the National-County Coordination nexus and the roles of each of the actors and institutions spelt out in the Strategy.

Fig. 13. Coordination Structure and Institutional Setups



5.2 Establishing a Technical Working Group on Agroecology

5.2.1 All counties in Kenya have technical line departments covering key agri-food sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, cooperatives, lands, water, irrigation, trade, and industry.

However, the specific structure and composition of these departments vary uniquely from county to county and are designed to drive economic growth and food security aligned with the delivery priorities set by each county's Governor. Counties may vary in terms of structures and institutional set-up as follows

- (i) Some counties have legislated CASSCOMs, others are undergoing the process of establishing the same
- (ii) Some counties have other functional platforms in the form of programme coordination units/desks, agr-ifood and environment related committees or thematic multi-stakeholder platforms.
- (iii) At the grassroots level, there are farmer organizations implementing agricultural interventions

5.2.2 The technical working group on agroecology should be established and embedded in CASSCOMs or existing agricultural institutional frameworks where CASSCOMs do not exist.

5.2.3 The working group should be multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary and comprise state and non-state actors.

5.2.4 The technical working group on agroecology will have the following functions:

- (a) Champion domestication and mainstreaming of the NAS-FST in CIDPs and in annual work plans
- (b) Develop, guide and supervise the implementation of a county action plans
- (c) Oversee overall coordination of implementation efforts for the Strategy
- (d) Provide overall guidance to County Executive Committees on key measures in the implementation of the Strategy

- 
- 
- (e) Regularly assess progress and report on milestones, results and achievements from emanating from Strategy implementation at the county
 - (f) Facilitate regular communication and flow of information on Agroecology management systems
 - (g) Facilitate sector-wide intra- and cross-county, regional and global linkages on agroecology products
 - (h) Participate in research and agenda-setting and feedback mechanisms on agroecology sub-sector

5.2.5 In constituting the technical working group, the counties should:

- (a) Leverage on existing coordination mechanisms
- (b) Work closely with technical line departments in implementation efforts
- (c) Work closely with non-state actors, farmer-facing organizations and associations
- (d) Foster key linkages and inter-relations of the institutions within the county
- (e) Ensure stakeholder engagement, co-creation and buy-in in coordination efforts
- (f) Strengthen advocacy amongst stakeholders and committee in resource mobilization
- (g) Establish clear roles and responsibilities to aid in effective support and coordination
- (h) Link with the national technical committee on agroecology for guidance

CHAPTER

6

EXTENSION, ADVISORY SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

6.1 Delivery of Extension and Advisory Services

- 6.1.1 Extension and advisory services are central pillars of implementing the NAS-FST. They help bridge knowledge systems and enable co-creation of context-specific solutions in agroecology interventions.
- 6.1.2 To improve the delivery of extension and advisory Services targeted predetermined messages, the County AE Technical Working Committee (TWC) will:
 - (a) Sensitize both public and private sector extension and advisory service providers on agroecology principles
 - (b) Map out and use any of the existing and emerging extension approaches such as;
 - (i) Agripreneurs model
 - (ii) Agro-input intermediaries
 - (iii) Community health promoters
 - (iv) Chief's Barazas
 - (v) Women and youth groups
 - (vi) Farmer organizations

- (c) Leverage existing and emerging delivery methods and technologies such as:
 - (i) Mass media;
 - (ii) Digital platforms;
 - (iii) Social media;
 - (iv) E-extension;
 - (v) Call centres;
 - (vi) E-learning;
 - (vii) Adaptive trials; and,
 - (viii) Demo farms.
- (d) Strengthen research-extension-farmer linkages and feedback mechanisms on agroecology technology and innovations;

6.2 Learning and Knowledge Management for Agroecology

6.2.1 Learning and Knowledge Management for Agroecology focusing on co-creating, sharing, and applying knowledge through participatory, context-specific, and inclusive processes will be undertaken to drive innovation and sustainability in agri-food systems.

6.2.2 This will be based on the following key elements

- (a) Participatory, experiential and holistic learning for farmers, actors across value chains, researchers, county-based policy-makers, and consumers:
- (b) Co-creating and sharing of knowledge by blending traditional, indigenous, and scientific knowledge with practical experience from farmers and other actors in the agri-food chain to ensure solutions are tailored to local environmental, social, and economic realities.
- (c) Establishing knowledge management frameworks that provide structured approaches to generating, sharing, and applying knowledge.
- (d) Systematically collecting, recording and disseminating knowledge in agroecology and establishing networks for knowledge exchange among various actors in agroecology.

6.2.3 Learning and Knowledge Management for Agroecology may employ the following participatory approaches:

- (i) Farmer Field Schools;
- (ii) Village-based advisors;
- (iii) Agroecology champions;
- (iv) Learning institutions e.g TVETs, 4K Clubs, ECD, Colleges, Universities
- (v) Innovation hubs; and,
- (vi) Exchange and experiential visits across levels for farmers and other agroecology stakeholders.





CHAPTER

7

ADVOCACY FOR AGROECOLOGY

- 7.0.1. This Section of the guide is designed to help county-level actors systematically advocate for agroecology, ensuring sustainable transformation of local food systems through inclusive and evidence-based actions.
- 7.0.2 The main steps for the technical working groups and other county actors to advocate effectively for agroecology are as follows:

Step One: Build inclusive multi-stakeholder coalitions comprising a broad range of actors including ISFAA, CASSCOM, county government departments, farmers, civil society organizations, researchers, private sector players, and community groups and establish technical working groups to coordinate advocacy efforts and ensure diverse voices are represented.

Step Two: Gather and use evidence-based information by collecting and documenting data on agroecology practices, their benefits for food security, climate resilience, economic growth, and social equity.

Step Three: Develop clear, contextualized advocacy messages as a solution to pressing challenges aligned with government agendas and political interests by emphasizing the benefits of agroecology including food and nutrition security, improved livelihoods, ecosystem health, and market opportunities.



Demonstrate agroecology through model farms or pilot projects to provide tangible examples, identify, and work with champions within government who can advocate internally.

Step Four: Engage and sensitize county leadership and policymakers by conducting targeted dialogues, workshops, and field visits with the Governor, County Executive Committee Members, and County Assembly to build political will.

Step Five: Facilitate market development and value chain support by raising public awareness and mobilize communities through empowering local leaders and farmer innovators to share knowledge and build grassroots demand for agroecology practices and products. Promote initiatives that support partners and entrepreneurs to invest in agroecology-related businesses; agroecological product certification, aggregation, and access to fair markets.

Step Six: Utilize diverse communication channels to effectively reach various audiences, leverage all available communication channels. This includes mainstream media, social media platforms, public events such as agricultural shows and fairs, champions and local level influencers

Step Seven: Ensure continuous capacity building and learning by establishing knowledge exchange networks and document success stories to strengthen advocacy and implementation

CHAPTER

8

FINANCING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- 8.0.1 This Section of the guide shows how to mobilize resources for financing agroecology implementation at the county level.
- 8.0.2 The following alternative approaches may be employed in mobilizing resources for agroecology implementation:
- (a) **Embed agroecology priorities within the CIDP and county agricultural, environmental, and climate action plans** to secure political and administrative buy-in.
 - (b) **Collaborate** with development partners, NGOs, research institutions, farmer organizations, and private sector actors to pool resources and technical expertise and leverage existing networks and local universities to access finances and mobilize resources.
 - (c) **Develop agroecological investment cases and business models** by developing viable investment cases that demonstrate economic, social, and environmental returns.
 - (d) **Mobilize government and donor funding for agroecology**, emphasize its alignment with climate resilience, food security, and sustainable development goals.
 - (e) **Engage Financial Institutions and other Private Sector Actors** by promoting incentives and partnerships to attract investment in agroecological inputs, value addition, and market infrastructure.

- (f) **Build capacity for resource mobilization and financial management** by training county officials, extension agents, and farmer groups on proposal development, grant management, and financial accountability to enhance access to diverse funding sources.
- (g) **Leverage innovative financing mechanisms** such as climate finance, green bonds, payment for ecosystem services, and community savings schemes to diversify funding streams.



CHAPTER

9

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AGROECEOLOGY

- 9.0.1 This Section of the guide provides practical steps for county actors to develop and implement effective capacity development programs that empower all stakeholders to adopt and scale agroecology.
- 9.0.2 The following are the areas to address for effective capacity building of actors at the County level:
- (a) **Conduct a Capacity Needs Assessment to identify** existing knowledge, skills, and gaps among farmers, extension officers, county officials, and other stakeholders.
 - (b) **Develop a capacity building strategy and plan** aligned with county agroecology policies and national frameworks.
 - (c) **Design and deliver tailored training programs** covering agroecology principles, sustainable farming practices, bio-input use, soil and water management, pest control, value chain development, waste recycling and use, and nutrition and diets.
 - (d) **Strengthen institutional and organizational capacity** by establishing or strengthening dedicated agroecology units such as the Technical working Groups under JASSCOM, Technical working Committees or desks within county governments.

In addition, it will be important to enhance coordination mechanisms among stakeholders including civil society, research institutions, and farmer organizations.

- (e) **Actively engage women youth and other special interest groups** by developing targeted programs to build the capacity of youth and women as key actors in agroecology.



CHAPTER

10

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

- 10.0.1 This Section guides the phasing of County-level implementation. Counties are advised to refer to the NAS-FST implementation matrix (Annex 2) and unbundle the elements relating to implementation timelines to fit county-specific context.
- 10.0.2 Counties may adopt a phased approach based on Domestication Pathways developed in Section 3 of the Guide with necessary adjustments as follows;

Phase 1 – Planning

- (a) NAS-FST awareness and sensitization sessions
- (b) Conduct mapping exercise for basic components of agroecology, actors, activities and products (e.g. soils, cropping systems, socio-economic needs, markets).
- (c) Form County AE domestication and Implementation Coordination structures.
- (d) Develop a County AE Policy/Strategy/Action Plan with clear goals, objectives, targets, timelines for achievement of targeted activities and roles of parties/actors.



Phase 2 – Awareness and Pilots

- (a) Undertake awareness and sensitization on AE Policy/Strategy/Action Plan
- (b) Implement priorities as per the AE Policy/Strategy/Action Plan e.g. launch demonstration plots in select communities/value chains and provide starter kits (seeds, organic inputs). Train farmers and extension in pilot areas.
- (c) Collect data on pilot outcomes.

Phase 3 – Scale-Up

Refine practices based on pilot lessons. Expand to new areas and integrate into broad extension outreach.

Phase 4 – Institutionalization

- (a) Incorporate agroecology targets into CIDPs,
- (b) Secure regular budgets
- (c) Replicate successes widely.

County to develop an implementation matrix where it articulates the lead agency actors, specific timelines, outputs and budgets, which can be used as a fundraising tool.

County to identify specific milestones in the different phases to inform the M&E Framework.

CHAPTER

11

MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING AND LEARNING (MERL)

11.0.1 This Section of the guide provides practical steps for county actors to develop and implement effective capacity development programs that empower all stakeholders to adopt and scale agroecology.

11.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

11.1.1. The County M&E Framework should align with National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the NAS-FST.

11.1.2 The County M&E Framework should:

- (a) Align with overall County AE Strategy/Action plans- include KPIs to serve as benchmarks for measuring progress, evaluating performance, and identifying implementation challenges
- (b) have comprehensive digital tools for accurate data collection
- (c) Institutionalize M&E at the County Headquarters and Sub-County levels by deploying M&E focal persons

11.2 Reporting Mechanisms and Learning

Existing county reporting mechanism should be utilized. The NAS-FST County reporting mechanism should align with County reporting mechanism.

11.3 Knowledge Sharing

11.2.1 The established County Technical working group on Agroecology will:

1. **Step One: Develop standardized reporting frameworks and tools** by creating clear templates and guidelines for data collection, monitoring, and reporting on agroecology indicators such as soil health, biodiversity, crop yields, input use, and socio-economic impact that align with national and county policies, and integrate climate resilience and sustainability metrics.
2. **Step Two: Effectively document and report indicators outlined in the County monitoring and evaluation framework** and share reports for compilation into the National database.
3. **Step Three: Document and Disseminate Success Stories and Lessons Learned** by producing case studies, policy briefs, newsletters, and multimedia content highlighting agroecology impacts and innovations.
4. **Step Four: Facilitate Regular Knowledge Sharing Events and Networks** through workshops, and learning exchanges at ward, sub-county, and county levels to disseminate findings and share best practices
5. **Step Five: Integrate Reporting into County Planning and Decision-Making by establishing** feedback loops where data and insights guide adaptive management and resource allocation and ensuring agroecology.

To establish effective systems for documenting, reporting, and sharing agroecological knowledge and progress and enhance learning, transparency, coordination, and scaling of sustainable practices within and beyond the county, the following key steps should be followed:



Step One: Establish a Multi-stakeholder Knowledge Management Platform that comprising county government departments (agriculture, environment, and trade), farmer organizations, NGOs, research institutions, and private sector actors to coordinate knowledge sharing, reporting, and innovation dissemination.

Step Two: Develop standardized reporting frameworks and tools by creating clear templates and guidelines for data collection, monitoring, and reporting on agroecology indicators such as soil health, biodiversity, crop yields, input use, and socio-economic impact that align with national and county policies, and integrate climate resilience and sustainability metrics.

Step Three: Implement Participatory Monitoring and Reporting by facilitating participatory approaches that engage farmers and community members in data collection and reporting to ensure accuracy, ownership, trust building and empowerment.

Step Four: Facilitate Regular Knowledge Sharing Events and Networks through workshops, and learning exchanges at ward, sub-county, and county levels to disseminate findings and share best practices.

Step Five: Document and Disseminate Success Stories and Lessons Learned by producing case studies, policy briefs, newsletters, and multimedia content highlighting agroecology impacts and innovations.

Step Six: Integrate Reporting into County Planning and Decision-Making by establishing feedback loops where data and insights guide adaptive management and resource allocation and ensuring agroecology reports inform county development plans, budgets, and policy reviews.



CHAPTER

12

RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDS

- 12.0.1 Implementing a robust risk management and safeguards framework is essential for the sustainable scaling of agroecology at the county level. This Section of the Guide is intended to guide the development of a systematic, holistic risk assessment of risks, integrating adaptive strategies, promoting financial protection, safeguarding social and environmental integrity, and building capacity of counties to enhance risk management to enhance resilience, protect livelihoods, and ensure agroecology's long-term success.
- 12.0.2 The following key steps for implementing risk management plan

Step One: Conducting comprehensive risk assessments by identifying and analyzing key risks affecting agroecology in the county, including climatic (droughts, floods), biophysical (pests, diseases), market (price volatility), institutional, and social risks. Risk should then be prioritized based on their likelihood and potential impact on agroecological production and livelihoods.

Step Two: Develop and integrate risk management strategies into agroecology plans by incorporating risk mitigation and adaptation measures into county agroecology policies and implementation frameworks while also aligning with national strategies and frameworks provided in the NAS-FST.

Step Three: Establish early warning and monitoring systems by developing community-based and technology-enabled early warning systems for weather extremes, pest outbreaks, and market fluctuations.

Step Four: Promote financial risk management instruments by among others facilitating access to weather-indexed insurance products, livestock insurance, and other financial tools that protect farmers against climate and market shocks.

Step Five: Implement safeguards to protect social and environmental integrity by ensuring agroecology interventions respect local cultural practices, gender equity, and social inclusion, particularly empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups. In addition, refocus activities that avoid practices that may lead to land degradation, biodiversity loss, or social conflict while providing grievance redress mechanisms and participatory governance structures to address concerns transparently.

Step Six: Build Capacity for Risk Management and Safeguards by training county officials, extension workers, and community leaders on risk assessment, mitigation techniques, and safeguard policies.



ANNEXES

Annex 1: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Indicator	Baseline (Current value in)	Unit/Target	Data Source	Frequency	Responsible person
Area under agroecological practices	Previous year growth	Hectares (annual growth)	County agri. records; satellite maps	Annually	Director
Farmers trained in agroecology	Actual number at the beginning of tracking	Number (cumulative)	Training attendance records	Semi-annually	Chief Officer
Soil health index (e.g. organic matter %)	Measured value at start of tracking	Measured value (%)	Soil sample analyses at demo sites	Biennial	Director
No. and types of agroecology principles/technologies flagged and adopted	No. and types of agroecology principles at start of tracking	No. and types of agroecology principles/technologies	Implementation reports	Annually	Program officer
Crop yield (for target crops)	No. and types of agroecology principles at start of tracking	kg/ha (yield change)	Harvest surveys; market data	Annually	Director
Farmer awareness of agroecology	No. and types of agroecology principles at start of tracking	% of respondents aware	Farmer survey or focus groups	Annually	Chief Officer
Policy/plan integration	No. and types of agroecology principles at start of tracking	Yes/No or count of policies	CIDP documents; ordinances passed	Every CIDP cycle	CECM
EOA indicators form CAADP					
Organic fertilizer use					
Integration of Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS)					

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