



PELUM KENYA

InfoSpot

ADVANCING AGROECOLOGY ACROSS KENYA: MAY – AUGUST 2026



Rosinah Mbenya, Country Coordinator - PELUM Kenya giving her opening remarks during the 3rd National Agroecology Symposium

ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network with a membership of 74 member organizations promoting agroecological principles and practices among smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Country Coordinator's Message • P. 1

Updates • P. 2-29

Contact Us P. 30



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR

Advancing Agroecology Through Collective Action

Dear PELUM Kenya Family,



It is my pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the PELUM Kenya Quarterly Newsletter. This edition captures an important period of growth, learning and collective action as we continue advancing agroecology across Kenya.

Over the past few months, we have witnessed encouraging progress at different levels. The 3rd National Agroecology Symposium brought together diverse actors to reflect on the future of Kenya's food systems and the important work ahead as we move from commitments and policies towards implementation. The launch of PELUM Kenya's Strategic Plan 2026 to 2030 and the continued growth of our membership also mark an exciting new chapter for our network.

This edition celebrates the people and partnerships driving this work forward. We share stories of young people building innovative agroecology enterprises and taking up leadership opportunities, farmers and schools strengthening local food systems, and communities finding practical solutions to the challenges they face.

These stories remind us that agroecology is about much more than how we produce food. It is about creating resilient livelihoods, improving nutrition, protecting our environment and building opportunities for women and young people. Most importantly, it is about people and communities taking the lead in shaping the food systems they want to see.

I am encouraged by the commitment of our Member Organizations, partners, communities and government institutions who continue to work with us. The progress highlighted in these pages is a reflection of what we can achieve when we learn from one another, work together and remain committed to a shared purpose.

As we look ahead, I invite us all to continue building on these efforts, sharing lessons and supporting solutions that are rooted in the realities of our communities.

Together, we can continue shaping food systems that are healthier, more resilient and sustainable for generations to come.

Rosinah Mbenya,
Country Coordinator,
PELUM Kenya

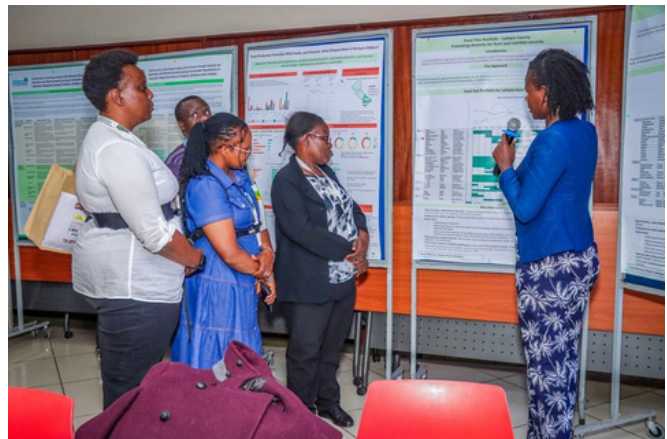
Shaping the Future of Food

Highlights from the 3rd National Agroecology Symposium



The 3rd National Agroecology Symposium was held on 22nd and 23rd July 2026 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS) in Nairobi under the theme, **“Transforming Agrifood Systems through Agroecology: A One Health Approach for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient Futures.”** The symposium brought together **more than 550 participants** from national and county governments, farmer organisations, civil society, academia, research institutions, development partners, the private sector, youth and consumer groups.

The Symposium came at a **pivotal moment as Kenya transitions from agroecology policy and strategy development towards implementation, institutionalization and scaling at both national and county levels.** It provided an important platform for stakeholders to reflect on progress, share evidence and innovations, strengthen collaboration and identify practical pathways for translating agroecology commitments into action.



A key focus was **strengthening linkages between policy frameworks, research, innovation, markets and grassroots practice.** The discussions also emphasized meaningful and inclusive participation of key food-system actors, recognizing the critical contributions of women, youth, smallholder farmers, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and pastoralist communities in driving the transition towards resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

The Symposium further **connected Kenya’s Agroecology agenda with global priorities, including the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and the International Year of the Woman Farmer.** These discussions highlighted the essential role of pastoralists and women farmers in sustainable food production, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and food and nutrition security.

A vibrant exhibition and innovation showcase brought together more than 70 exhibitors from across the agroecology and agrifood systems landscape. Participants displayed diverse practices, technologies, products, research, services and innovations contributing to food systems transformation.



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From Call to Action to Innovation Celebrating the Champions of Agroecology

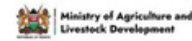


The 3rd National Agroecology Symposium 2026 concluded with a strong call for stakeholders to move beyond dialogue and accelerate action towards transforming Kenya's food systems through agroecology and the One Health approach.

A major outcome of the symposium was the adoption of a 10-point Call to Action, which sets out key priorities for advancing the implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy. The call urges greater investment in supportive policies and financing, expanded markets for agroecological products, research and innovation, sustainable livestock systems and public procurement of agroecological foods. It also highlights the importance of empowering young people, strengthening coordination and fast tracking monitoring, evaluation and learning systems to track Kenya's progress.

The symposium also celebrated the creativity and innovation of young people through the People's Choice Youth Innovation Awards. ZeroLoop Living Lab Platform emerged as the first-place winner, followed by ShambaBot OneHealth Hub in second place and Avocado Upcycling in third place.

Outstanding exhibitors were also recognised for their contribution to advancing agroecological practices, innovation, market development, inclusion and knowledge sharing.



CALL TO ACTION

1	Strengthen National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST) coordination	6	Prioritize agroecological food procurement
2	Reform organic input regulations	7	Empower women and youth leadership
3	Integrate livestock in agroecology	8	Strengthen agroecology research
4	Increase implementation financing	9	Grow agroecological food markets
5	Invest in agroecological innovations	10	Fasttrack NAS-FST Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

Partners



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Exhibition Awards

Category 1: Agroecological Practice & One Health Integration

- 1st (tie) - Strategies for Agro-Pastoralists Development Kenya (SAPAD) & Grow Biointensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (G-BiACK)
- 3rd: Hand in Hand Eastern Africa

Category 2: Diversity, Value Addition, Innovation & Market Readiness

- 1st: Ardor Life Kenya
- 2nd: Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP)
- 3rd: INADES-Formation Kenya

Category 3: Inclusion, Knowledge & Influence

- 1st: Laikipia Permaculture Centre Trust
- 2nd: Bio Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)
- 3rd: Power for Food Partnership - SNV in East and Southern Africa

PHOTO SPEAK - 3RD NATIONAL AGROECOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM



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INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING



2026 Annual General Meeting

PELUM Kenya held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 21 July 2026 at Sports View Hotel, Kasarani, bringing together 55 delegates from member organizations across Kenya. A key highlight of the AGM was the ratification of six new members: Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes, Environment Entrepreneurship Energy (3E Africa), Baringo Women and Youth Organization, IL LARAMATAK, SAFI Organics and IMPACT.

The addition of these organizations brings PELUM Kenya's total membership to 74 member organizations, further strengthening the network's reach and collective efforts to promote agroecology and sustainable food systems.

Elections were also held for the Nairobi and Central Zone Board representation. Mr. Samuel Nderitu, Executive Director of GBIACK, was elected to replace Mr. Sebastian Wambugu, Executive Director of YARD, who previously served as Board Treasurer.

The AGM reaffirmed PELUM Kenya's commitment to strengthening its network and advancing sustainable agriculture in Kenya.



Shaping a Diploma in Agroecology: Building the Future of Agroecology Education in Kenya



More than 600 seed varieties, some dating back to 2014, are carefully preserved at G-BIACK. This made the organisation an ideal setting for a two-day workshop focused on an important question for Kenya's agricultural future: how can agroecology be better integrated into formal agricultural education?

PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with G-BIACK, brought together stakeholders from academic institutions, government agencies and civil society to begin developing a competency based Diploma in Agroecology. The proposed programme aims to equip young people, who make up the majority of Kenya's population, with practical knowledge and skills to contribute to sustainable food systems.

Discussions highlighted a persistent gap between theoretical agricultural training and the practical skills needed in the field. Participants therefore developed a graduate profile centred on real world competencies, including managing Agroecological farms, conducting farm assessments, training and advising farmers, marketing Agroecological products and solving practical challenges.

The draft curriculum proposes 28 units organised into six modules covering agroecology foundations, production systems, climate and natural resource management, enterprise and food systems, extension and community development, and research and industrial attachment. Gender and inclusion, indigenous knowledge, climate change and digital literacy will be integrated across the programme.

The proposed Level 6 diploma under the Kenya National Qualifications Framework will still undergo further refinement, review and accreditation. However, the workshop marked an important step towards strengthening agroecology education and preparing a new generation of practitioners equipped to transform Kenya's food systems.



Strengthening Accountability Through Financial Site Visits

As part of its ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and sound financial stewardship among its network of member organizations, PELUM Kenya recently undertook a series of financial site visits to selected partner organizations across the country.



The exercise forms part of the Secretariat's routine monitoring and support framework, designed to ensure that donor funds and internally generated resources are managed prudently, in line with agreed grant agreements, financial policies, and donor compliance requirements.

Purpose of the Visits

The financial site visits were guided by several key objectives:

1. **Verification of financial records** – confirming that partner organizations maintain accurate books of accounts, supporting documentation, and audit trails for funds disbursed by PELUM Kenya and its development partners.
2. **Compliance monitoring** – assessing adherence to financial policies, procurement procedures, and donor-specific reporting requirements.
3. **Capacity gap identification** – identifying areas where partner organizations may need additional financial management training or systems support.
4. **Strengthening accountability** – reinforcing a culture of transparency between the Secretariat, member organizations, and funding partners.
5. **Relationship building** – using the visits as an opportunity for direct engagement, allowing finance teams from both sides to discuss challenges candidly and co-develop solutions.

During the visits, PELUM Kenya's Finance and Programmes teams **engaged directly with partner organizations to review financial records and internal control systems**. The exercise involved verifying books of accounts, supporting documentation, bank statements, receipts, procurement files, payroll records, and previous audit reports. Financial reports submitted to PELUM Kenya were also cross-checked against source documents held by the partner organizations.

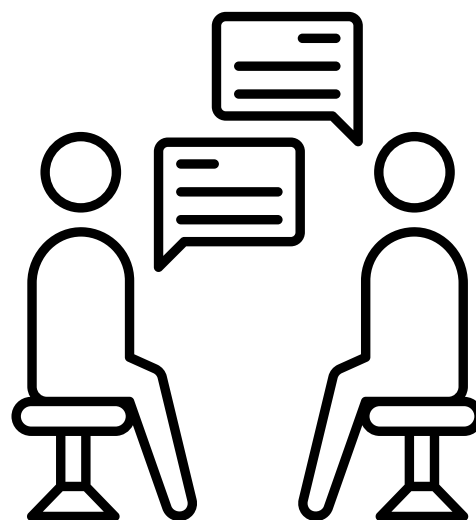
Beyond compliance, **the visits provided an opportunity for constructive learning and dialogue**. Discussions with finance officers, programme teams, and organizational leadership helped identify operational challenges and capacity gaps requiring additional support. Where applicable, the team also conducted physical verification of project-supported activities and assets.

A key feature of the visits **was the exit debrief, where preliminary observations were shared directly with each partner**. This created space for clarification, joint reflection, and the identification of practical solutions before the visiting team departed.

The **exercise highlighted generally sound financial management practices among partners while identifying areas requiring continued strengthening**, including filing systems, reconciliations, timely retirement of imprests, and financial reporting.

Moving forward, **PELUM Kenya will share individualized feedback with the participating organizations and provide targeted capacity strengthening where needed**. Lessons from the visits will also inform the Secretariat's broader partner support and grant management strategy.

Through this collaborative approach, **PELUM Kenya continues to strengthen systems that promote responsible resource management, build trust with partners and donors**, and ensure that resources are effectively directed towards advancing sustainable and resilient food systems.



PELUM Kenya Unveils Strategic Plan 2026–2030

On 21 July 2026, PELUM Kenya launched its **Strategic Plan 2026–2030** during a dedicated session following the network's Annual General Meeting (AGM), marking the beginning of a new five-year chapter for the network's agroecology work. The strategy was developed through a participatory and inclusive process involving Member Organizations, grassroots actors, development partners, and county and national government representatives. Staff and representatives of Member Organizations from PELUM Kenya's four networking zones gathered to witness the unveiling of the roadmap.



The new strategy builds on lessons, achievements and experiences from the 2021–2025 strategic period and earlier plans. It was also informed by extensive consultations, a comprehensive review, and SWOT and PESTEL analyses of the network's internal capacity and operating environment.

PELUM Kenya's Board Chair described the strategy as both **"a compass and a call to action,"** emphasizing collective ownership, inclusive governance and a strong, values-driven network that amplifies the voices of farmers and communities.

The Strategic Plan focuses on five interconnected areas: **Advocacy and Policy Influence, Women and Youth in Agroecology, Climate Action, Market Development, and Institutional Capacity Strengthening.** Implementation is estimated to require **KES 2.29 billion over five years.** Moving forward, PELUM Kenya and its Member Organizations will cascade the priorities into zonal and organizational workplans, track progress through a MERL framework, and strengthen partnerships and resource mobilization.

Photo speak



CLIMATE ACTION

World Environmental Day Celebrations in Yatta, Machakos County



Left: Participants planting trees during the WED commemoration Right: The Chief Guest, the Assistant County Commissioner (ACC), follows a vibrant entertainment session presented by learners at Malivini Primary School

PELUM Kenya **commemorated World Environment Day** on 5 June 2026 at Malivini Primary School in Yatta, Machakos County, bringing together **more than 200 participants**. The event focused on watershed management, climate resilience and community-led environmental action, with particular emphasis on **Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)** as a low-cost approach to restoring vegetation and degraded landscapes.

The event increased community understanding of climate change, watershed management and FMNR, while strengthening the visibility of the Middle Mwitasyano WRUA. Community members were also mobilized to participate in environmental restoration activities, thereby strengthening collaboration among government agencies, civil society, schools, and local communities.

World Environmental Day Celebrations in Mariiki Dam, Murang'a County



PELUM Kenya joined County Government Officials, local communities, farmers, youth groups and environmental stakeholders to commemorate World Environment Day 2026 at Mariiki Dam in Murang'a County.

The celebration focused on restoring ecosystems through growing indigenous trees as a response to climate change and environmental degradation. PELUM Kenya contributed 1,500 indigenous tree seedlings, with more than 300 participants taking part in the tree growing exercise and environmental awareness activities. A **key message was the importance of growing and nurturing trees, rather than simply planting them**. Participants received guidance on tree establishment, protection and maintenance to improve survival rates.

The **event highlighted the value of collaboration, community ownership and youth engagement in conservation**. It demonstrated how indigenous tree growing can support ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, water catchment protection and climate resilience in Murang'a County and beyond.



CLIMATE ACTION

World Environmental Day Celebrations in Meru County at Nkinga Primary School



Left; Participants planting trees during the WED commemoration. Right: The Chief Guest, the Assistant County Commissioner (ACC), and other guests following in speeches at Nkinga Primary School.

In the Upper Eastern and Northern Region, PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with the Meru County National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), marked **World Environment Day at Nkinga Primary School in Buuri East Sub County under the theme “A Global Call for Climate Action.”** The event brought together more than 500 participants, including community members, county government departments, parastatals, civil society organisations, learning institutions, and other stakeholders.

The forum underscored the importance of partnership and collective action in environmental conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation. It demonstrated how coordinated action at the community level can contribute to addressing global environmental and climate challenges.

Ahead of the main event, **community sensitization forums were conducted, alongside environmental clean up activities at a nearby community waste disposal site.** These activities provided an opportunity for communities and stakeholders to take practical action towards improving their local environment while raising awareness of responsible waste management and environmental stewardship.

During the main forum, **stakeholders highlighted the importance of environmental protection and conservation, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, and community-led climate action.** The event culminated in a tree planting/growing exercise at Nkinga Primary School, providing a practical demonstration of collective efforts to restore ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen community resilience to climate change.

Through these actions, the event contributed to the “A Global Call for Climate Action” by translating awareness into practical, community led action and reinforcing the role of partnerships in driving locally rooted solutions to the climate crisis.



Strengthening Community Action for Catchment Restoration in Yatta



On 9–10 June 2026, PELUM Kenya supported **training for the Upper Mwitasyano Water Resources Users Association (WRUA)** in Yatta Sub-County, Machakos County. The training strengthened community participation and ownership in managing and restoring the Upper Mwitasyano sub-catchment.

Through transect walks and drives, participants assessed water sources, degraded areas, erosion hotspots, riparian zones and existing conservation initiatives. Community members and stakeholders **jointly identified key environmental challenges, opportunities and priority actions for restoration.**

The participatory process strengthened collaboration and local ownership while providing a practical framework to guide future conservation and catchment restoration efforts in the area.

Strengthening Community Led Water Governance

Sustainable water management depends on informed communities, strong local institutions and effective collaboration. In June 2026, PELUM Kenya conducted **capacity building workshops for Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) and key stakeholders in Bungoma, Narok and Kilifi Counties.**

The workshops **strengthened participants' understanding of WRUA roles, the Water Act 2016, public participation and the mandates of key water and environmental institutions.** Participants also explored challenges including catchment degradation, pollution, water scarcity, inadequate infrastructure and weak stakeholder coordination.

The engagements supported communities to identify practical solutions. Narok prioritised spring protection, rainwater harvesting and riparian restoration, while Bungoma focused on community sensitisation, stakeholder engagement and tree nurseries. In Kilifi, participants proposed improved water infrastructure and a county water resource forum.

The workshops **demonstrated how stronger WRUAs can enhance community voice, accountability and collective action towards sustainable protection and management of water resources.**

Unlocking Resilience: Bringing Food Diversification to Kenya's Drylands



Drylands are often viewed as landscapes of scarcity, where communities must contend with prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall and limited food production opportunities. Yet, a three day Drylands Agroecology Field Training held from 17–19 June 2026 in Barsaloi, Samburu County, demonstrated that locally adapted agroecological solutions can unlock new opportunities for food security, nutrition and resilient livelihoods.

PELUM Kenya, in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), convened the training at the 3000 Friends Training Centre under the theme, “**Unlocking Resilience: Integrating Food Diversification into Agroecology and Pastoralism.**” The training brought together participants from Samburu, Turkana and Laikipia Counties, including PELUM Kenya member organisations, county governments, community based organisations, local administration and farmer groups.

Participants **explored practical solutions suited to dryland conditions, including kitchen gardens, water efficient production systems, organic bio-inputs, permaculture, community seed banking, drought-tolerant crops and indigenous seeds, small livestock enterprises and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).** Field demonstrations showcased innovations such as keyhole and moist gardens, raised beds and the productive use of drought-tolerant Nopal cactus.

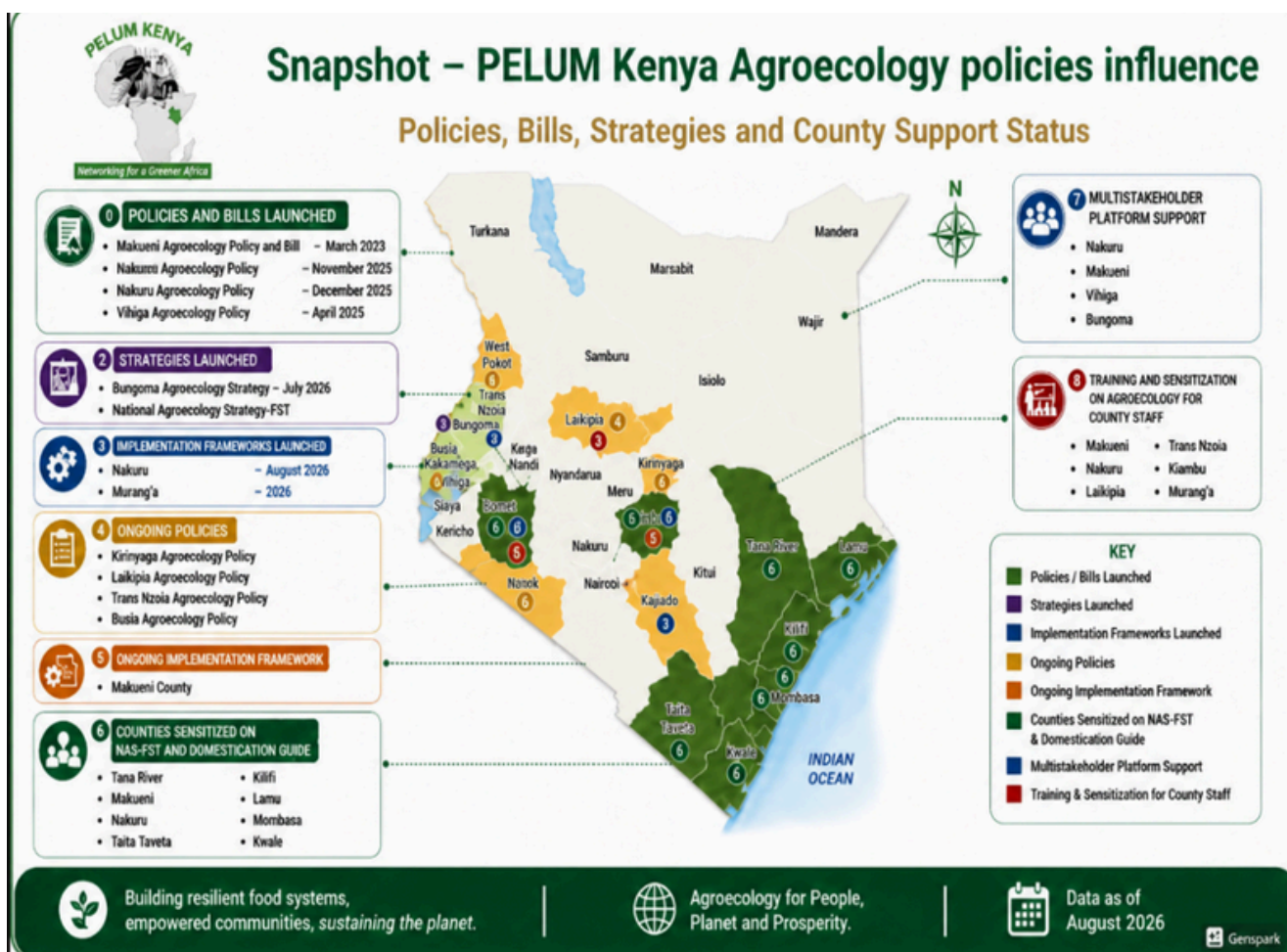
The training also demonstrated the value of integrating crops and livestock into pastoral and agropastoral systems. Participants learned about seed saving, diversified animal production and organic marketing as pathways for improving nutrition, strengthening livelihoods and reducing dependence on costly external inputs.

Importantly, **the final reflections challenged the perception that drylands cannot support diversified food production.** Participants developed practical action plans to establish demonstration sites, promote kitchen gardens, strengthen seed saving and expand agroecological enterprises within their communities.

The **training reaffirmed a powerful message: with the right knowledge, locally adapted innovations and collaboration, Kenya's drylands can become centres of resilience, food diversity and sustainable livelihoods.**



ADVOCACY AND POLICY INFLUENCE



Advocacy and policy influence remained a central pillar of PELUM Kenya's work in advancing the transition towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems in 2026. Through collaboration with farmers, county governments, civil society organizations, research institutions, development partners and other stakeholders, PELUM Kenya continued to strengthen policy dialogue and promote the integration of agroecology into national and county planning, policies, strategies and investment frameworks.

Key engagements during the period supported the **dissemination and domestication of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST) 2024–2033**, while encouraging counties to identify practical pathways for integrating agroecology into County Integrated Development Plans, Annual Development Plans and county budgets. PELUM Kenya also **supported leadership sensitization, public participation and multi-stakeholder validation processes** towards the development and adoption of county agroecology policies and strategies.

Beyond policy development, PELUM Kenya **created opportunities for policymakers to engage directly with farmers and observe practical Agroecological innovations and evidence at community level**. Through learning exchanges, advocacy forums, public participation processes and national and international policy engagements, the organization continued to connect farmer knowledge and community experiences with decision making processes.

These efforts are contributing to a **stronger enabling environment for agroecology, increased stakeholder ownership and more coordinated action** towards resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems in Kenya.



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Dates: 29 June–3 July 2026 |

PELUM Kenya **conducted sensitization meetings across six coastal counties** on the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST) 2024–2033 and the County Domestication Guide.

Coverage: Lamu, Kilifi, Tana River, Kwale, Mombasa and Taita Taveta Counties

The engagements brought together county government departments, development partners, civil society, private sector actors and farmer representatives **to strengthen understanding and ownership of the agroecology agenda.**

Photo speak of Stakeholders during NAS-FST sensitization and domestication discussions.



The forums strengthened stakeholders' understanding of the NAS-FST and promoted county ownership of the domestication process. **Participants explored practical pathways for integrating agroecology into county policies, strategies and action plans,** as well as existing planning frameworks such as County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Annual Development Plans (ADPs) and county budgets.

Across the six counties, discussions **emphasized the importance of strong county leadership, multi-sectoral coordination and sustained stakeholder engagement in advancing agroecology.** Participants identified key priorities including increased farmer awareness, strengthened extension services, establishment of demonstration sites, improved water management, climate resilience and resource mobilization.

The sensitization forums also **enabled counties to identify context-specific institutional, financing and coordination mechanisms required to move from awareness to practical implementation.** County governments and stakeholders reaffirmed the importance of collaborative partnerships and institutional support in advancing the NAS-FST. Overall, the engagements established a strong foundation for translating national commitments into coordinated county-level actions that promote resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Trans Nzoia Leadership Sensitization Strengthens Commitment to Agroecology



The Trans Nzoia leadership sensitization marked an important milestone in strengthening political commitment towards the domestication and implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST). The engagement **brought together members of the County Executive, the County Assembly Committee on Agriculture, senior technical officers and development partners to deepen their understanding of agroecology as a pathway towards resilient food systems, improved livelihoods and sustainable natural resource management.**

During the meeting, participants explored the objectives of the NAS-FST and its alignment with Trans Nzoia County's development priorities. County leaders were also taken through the proposed Trans Nzoia Agroecology Policy, which seeks to complement existing county plans while addressing challenges such as declining soil fertility, climate change, biodiversity loss and food insecurity.



Particular attention was given to the **integration of agroecology into County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Annual Development Plans (ADPs) and county budgeting processes to support long-term implementation.**

The sensitization further provided a platform for leaders to discuss policy ownership and implementation mechanisms. Participants emphasized the importance of coordinated action among government departments, research institutions, farmer organizations, civil society and the private sector. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to accelerate policy approval and strengthen collaboration in advancing agroecological transformation in Trans Nzoia County.

Public Participation and Validation

Advance Trans Nzoia Agroecology Policy



Trans Nzoia County has taken a significant step towards advancing sustainable and resilient food systems through an inclusive public participation and policy validation process for its proposed Agroecology Policy. The **County conducted public participation forums across its five sub-counties of Cherangany, Kiminini, Endebess, Saboti and Kwanza**. The forums brought together farmers, community leaders, women and youth groups, civil society organizations, private sector actors and county officials, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to review the draft policy and contribute recommendations.

Participants emphasized the need to strengthen indigenous and farmer-managed seed systems, promote the use of bio-inputs, improve agricultural extension services and market access, and conserve natural resources. These priorities reflect the important role of agroecology in addressing climate change, protecting biodiversity and strengthening resilient livelihoods and food systems.

Recommendations from the public participation process informed revisions to the draft policy, which was subsequently presented for validation at a multi-stakeholder workshop held at Manor House Agricultural Centre. The workshop brought together 100 participants representing county and national government, the County Assembly, research institutions, development partners, civil society, the private sector and farmer organizations.



Stakeholders endorsed the final draft policy as a practical framework for promoting sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation and resilient livelihoods. The validation marked an important milestone towards formal adoption, with stakeholders reaffirming their commitment to continued collaboration, resource mobilization and effective implementation of agroecology across Trans Nzoia County

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

From Policy to Farm: Farmers Leading the Agroecology Transformation through Farmers' Field days



Across Kiambu and Makueni Counties, farmers are demonstrating that Agroecology is more than an idea—it is already transforming farms, livelihoods and local food systems. Through Farmers' Field Days and learning exchanges held in May and June 2026, PELUM Kenya and its partners created practical spaces where farmers, policymakers, researchers, county officials and private-sector actors could learn directly from innovations on the ground.

In Kiambu, more than 200 farmers, County Government officials, researchers, private sector actors and other stakeholders gathered at Ruhiu's Organic Farm in Ting'ang'a for the Kiambu Farmers' Field Day. Participants explored six practical demonstration stations covering composting and vermicomposting, Black Soldier Fly waste recycling, solar drying and value addition, farm layout and planning, bioinput application, and livestock integration. In Makueni, 241 participants, including 112 men and 129 women, explored regenerative farming practices, soil and water conservation, Agroforestry, bioinput technologies and livestock management.

The Field Day also demonstrated the economic potential of agroecology. Among 10 surveyed farmer representatives, exhibition sales ranged between KES 78,000 and KES 115,000, with an average income of KES 97,500 per respondent. Importantly, 100% of respondents reported gaining new market contacts

Photo Speak



Together, these engagements demonstrate that Agroecological transformation is strengthened when farmers, governments, researchers and markets work together to turn practical innovation into lasting food systems change.



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Learning from Success: Strengthening Organic Markets Through Peer Exchange



In June 2026, Sixty members from the Nooya Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Group in Kiserian and the Mukameni PGS Group in Machakos took **part in exposure visits to the INOGOF Organic Market in Garden Estate, Nairobi**. The visits were organised **to strengthen organic market development and deepen awareness and understanding of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)**.

The exchange was organised in collaboration with KCOA-KHEA Project, CSHEP Kenya Organic Foods and the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN). It provided farmers with an opportunity to learn directly from an established farmer led organic market and explore practical approaches to building sustainable market channels. **INOGOF Organic Market, managed by 14 organic farmers, has operated for the past 10 years and serves more than 400 customers** from Garden Estate, Thika Road and surrounding areas. The market operates every Saturday through a pre-order system, where customers place orders online during the week and collect fresh organic produce on Saturday mornings.

During the visits, participants interacted with INOGOF members and **learned about collective marketing, customer relationship management, production planning, quality assurance through PGS, financial management and record keeping**. The discussions also highlighted the importance of strong group governance and leadership in sustaining farmer led enterprises.

The exposure visits demonstrated the **power of peer learning in inspiring innovation and strengthening farmer organisations**. By learning from INOGOF's experience, the visiting PGS groups gained practical insights on how organised farmers can build customer trust, develop reliable markets and improve incomes through collective action.

Africa's Drylands: From Margins to the Center of Food Systems Transformation



Africa's drylands are often viewed as challenging landscapes, yet they hold immense potential for shaping resilient, sustainable and inclusive food systems. During the two-day conference, PELUM Kenya **supported farmers to showcase innovative dryland agroecological solutions that strengthen livelihoods and build climate resilience across Kenya's ASAL regions**.

Day one focused on regenerative soil health as a foundation for resilient food systems, alongside opportunities in climate-smart agriculture and digital advisory services for dryland farmers. On day two, PELUM Kenya joined discussions on Youth, Women and Pastoralism, highlighting the need to position agroecology as a profitable and rewarding career pathway for young people. The discussions also explored cultural barriers that continue to limit women's participation and leadership in herd management and agropastoral value chains.

The conference **reinforced a powerful message: Africa's drylands are not margins to be overlooked, but frontiers of innovation and opportunity**. The future of food systems will be shaped by resilient communities, healthy ecosystems and empowered youth, women and pastoralists.



Agroecology Taking Root in School Feeding



Agroecology is increasingly taking root in schools and communities, transforming how learners understand food, farming, nutrition and livelihoods. Through the Promoting Agroecology in School Feeding (PASF) Project, PELUM Kenya, Member Organizations and partners (SACDEP Kenya, OACK, RODI Kenya, ICE Kenya, COSDEP, KOAN, Digital Green and Practical Action) are supporting schools and farmer groups to grow fresh, diverse and organically produced food while strengthening sustainable and locally rooted food systems.

During **recent project monitoring visits, schools demonstrated strong ownership, innovation and commitment to agroecological school gardens.** One participating school, which has a long history of supporting school meals through its involvement in the Njaa Marufuku initiative, continues to build on this legacy. Its PASF-supported agroecological garden complements parent-supported school feeding efforts while providing learners with practical agricultural skills.

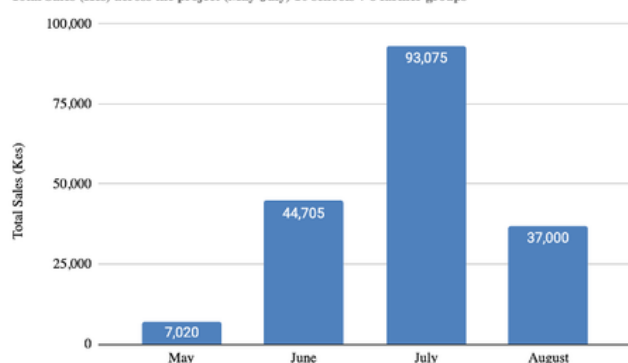
Managed by 4K Club members and two teacher-patrons, the thriving garden features individually named raised seedbeds where learners grow a variety of African green leafy vegetables. The young farmers have already realised their first harvest and sold produce to the school kitchen and teachers, earning a direct return from their efforts. The school's 4K Club was recently recognised as the most successful in the Sub-County, reflecting strong institutional leadership and the commitment of learners to agriculture despite periods of hot and dry weather.

Across the project, the transition from training to production and income generation is becoming increasingly visible. By July 2026, six farmer groups and ten schools had recorded combined sales of KES 80,160 from diverse vegetables. Schools generated KES 62,370, while farmer groups earned KES 17,790. Kales and spinach emerged as the leading vegetables, with schools among the dominant buyers.

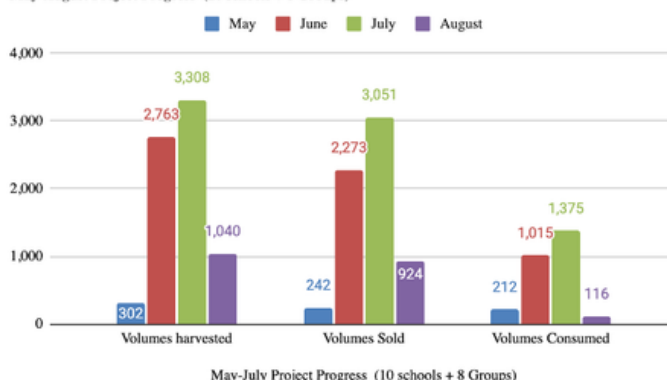
Importantly, the impact extends beyond sales. A significant share of the harvest was purchased and consumed directly by schools, contributing to healthier diets and improved food security. Income generated is being invested in 4K Club savings, meals for needy learners and farming inputs such as seeds.

Meanwhile, **collaboration is gaining momentum through the Regenerative School Meals Murang'a Lighthouse Initiative.** Through a Joint Implementation Programme, partners are aligning efforts to connect agroecological farming, nutritious school meals, local procurement, digital innovation, evidence generation and county governance.

Total Sales (Kes) across the project (May-July) 10 schools + 8 farmer groups



May-August Project Progress (10 schools + 8 Groups)



Together, these initiatives demonstrate that school feeding can go beyond providing meals. It can nurture healthier learners, strengthen local farmer livelihoods and inspire a new generation to see agriculture as an opportunity, enterprise and pathway towards a more resilient food system.



PELUM Kenya participated in the 2026 Financing Agri-food Systems Sustainably (FINAS) Summit, held at KICC, Nairobi, from 30 June to 2 July 2026. The summit brought together government, financial institutions, farmers, youth, women, private-sector actors and development partners to advance sustainable financing for Africa's food systems.

Through the AWOLA and KCOA projects, PELUM Kenya and its **partners showcased agroecological products and biological solutions for Integrated Pest Management and soil fertility**. AWOLA Mentor Nyambura Simiyu also exhibited value added products from Ardor Food, sourced from organic farmers.

A key highlight was the **launch of the National Agrifood System Investment Plan (NASIP)**. PELUM Kenya also co-organised a side event on transformational agroecology financing, exploring innovative approaches to scale territorial food systems and accelerate agroecological transformation across Africa.

Learning from Africa's Zero Waste Movement in Ghana

Moraa Ratemo from PELUM Kenya **graduated from the Africa Zero Waste Academy 2026 in Kpong, Ghana, organized by GAIA Africa and the Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)**. The Academy brought together passionate environmental change makers from across Africa to explore practical solutions for a cleaner and more sustainable future.

Photo Speak



The learning experience **expanded her understanding of zero waste systems, circular economy solutions, policy advocacy and community led approaches to waste management**. Discussions also highlighted the important connection between waste management, climate action and sustainable agriculture. Organic waste presents opportunities for producing compost, vermiculture and liquid manures, supporting Agroecological farming while reducing environmental pollution. Participants also reflected on the growing challenge of non decomposable plastics and the need for innovative solutions.

The journey continued with field visits to landfills and waste management companies, providing an opportunity to learn directly from communities and practitioners transforming waste into opportunity and driving environmental change across Ghana and Africa.

WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGROECOLOGY

From Passion to Profit: Growing the Next Generation of Agroecopreneurs



60 young agroecopreneurs and mentors. Two days of learning. One shared ambition, to build thriving, resilient businesses. Through the Youth in Agroecology and Business Learning Track Africa (YALTA) and Building Women and Youth-led Network Alliances for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture (WYNA) programmes, PELUM Kenya convened 40 youth mentees and 20 mentors in Nakuru for a hands-on Youth Enterprise Growth and Mentorship Workshop. Participants sharpened their skills in farm business management, financial record-keeping, resilient agroecology, market access and value addition, while mentor-mentee sessions sparked knowledge exchange, networking and peer learning.

The learning moved beyond the classroom with a field visit to a youth-led agroenterprise in Njoro, showcasing how agroecology, innovation and smart business practices can turn farming into a profitable enterprise. By investing in skills, mentorship and practical exposure, PELUM Kenya is helping young women and men move from agricultural potential to enterprise, income and opportunity, and take their place as leaders of sustainable food systems.

Young People Aren't Waiting for a Seat: They're Shaping the Future of Food



From Central Kenya to the Northern Frontier, young people are making their voices count. PELUM Kenya, alongside partners, convened the Central Youth in Agrifood Systems Dialogue and Northern Frontier Youth in Agrifood Systems Dialogue, bringing together young agripreneurs, government representatives, sector leaders, development partners and youth-serving organisations to shape priorities for the National Youth in Agri-Food Systems Strategy and inform the review of the Kenya Youth Agribusiness Strategy. Across both dialogues, young people called for greater access to finance, land, markets, technology, skills and inclusive policy spaces that enable their enterprises to grow and create decent employment.

From livestock and dryland farming to beekeeping, agro-processing and digital innovation, the message was clear: youth are already building the future of Kenya's food systems. The dialogues generated practical recommendations, including youth-responsive financing and incubation, stronger market access and product certification, locally grounded agroecology policies, and meaningful youth participation in governance and accountability. The challenge now is to move beyond consultation and build systems that match the ambition, innovation and enterprise already being demonstrated by young people across Kenya.



Stories That Grow: Capturing Women & Youth-Led Agroecology in Action



Across Kisumu, Vihiga, Nakuru, Kiambu, Machakos and Makueni, PELUM Kenya captured the inspiring journeys of seven young agroecology entrepreneurs through professional videography and photography.

From organic inputs and regenerative agriculture to indigenous foods, agroecology practices, and value addition, the documentation exercise brought to life the innovations, challenges, and achievements of young people building livelihoods through agroecology.

These are more than success stories; they are stories of transformation. Through interviews, field footage, and powerful photography, the exercise created a rich collection of content for advocacy, learning, donor visibility and digital storytelling, showcasing how PELUM Kenya's support is helping young people turn agroecological ideas into thriving enterprises and stronger livelihoods across the country.

[Interview Link](#)

Different Contexts, One Generation: Youth Taking the Lead

Machakos came alive as young people took centre stage to celebrate innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable food systems during the 2026 International Youth Day celebrations. Under the theme **"Different Contexts, Common Aspirations,"** PELUM Kenya joined youth, partners and stakeholders for two days of vibrant activities, including a youth caravan, innovation showcases, exhibitions, media engagements, creative performances, sports and recognition of outstanding young innovators. The celebrations created a powerful platform for young people to connect, showcase their ideas and demonstrate what becomes possible when they have the right opportunities.

From ideas to action, the celebration continued beyond the spotlight. Young agripreneurs shared their journeys, participants engaged in an interactive knowledge challenge, and a field visit to Kavyuni offered a firsthand look at how youth-led agroenterprises are using agroecology to transform livelihoods. The celebrations reinforced PELUM Kenya's commitment to investing in young people as innovators, entrepreneurs and champions of resilient communities and sustainable, food-secure futures.

[Link](#)

Photo Speak



Kenyan Youth Take Africa's Agroecology Movement to Kampala



25 young Kenyan agripreneurs joined fellow youth innovators, entrepreneurs and policymakers from across Africa at the Africa Regional Youth Summit on Agroecology Business and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Forum in Kampala, Uganda, from 24–26 August 2026.

Supported by PELUM Kenya through the Building Women and Youth-led Network Alliances for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture (WYNA), Accelerating Women and Youth-led Organisations for Agroecology Policy (AWOLA) and Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) projects, the summit provided a powerful platform for young people to exchange ideas, showcase enterprises and champion greater access to markets, finance, skills and policy spaces.

The week delivered remarkable milestones for youth leadership. PELUM Kenya's network celebrated Francis Thoya, founder of Eco-Afya and Youth in Agroecology and Business Learning Track Africa (YALTA) mentee, elected President of the newly formed Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Youth Agroecology Caucus; Eze Goodness, an Accelerating Women and Youth-led Organisations for Agroecology Policy mentee from Nigeria, elected West Africa Representative; and Julius Waweru, founder of Ukulima Modern and YALTA mentee, who took home the Overall Youth Agroecology Entrepreneur Award. Through enterprise showcases, farm visits and cross-country networking, the summit affirmed one powerful message: Africa's young people are not just the future of food systems—they are already leading their transformation.

Africa's food future is in the hands of young people who are already innovating, building enterprises and leading the agroecology transformation.

Young Changemakers Are Already Transforming Kenya's Food Systems

The **Kenya Youth in Agrifood Systems Summit (KYASS)** 2026, held from 2–4 September 2026 at the Kenya School of Government, Kabete, brought together young changemakers, policymakers, researchers, farmers, innovators, and partners for three days of bold conversations, innovation, enterprise showcases, and field learning under the theme "**Youth Leading Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems.**" From agroecology and regenerative farming to technology, finance, markets, land and policy, young people moved beyond discussion to showcase practical solutions already transforming Kenya's food systems.

The message from the Summit was unmistakable: youth are not waiting for opportunities; they are creating them. Through their enterprises, innovations, and leadership, young people are demonstrating that resilient and sustainable food systems are not a distant ambition, but a future already taking shape. PELUM Kenya was proud to be part of this movement, helping amplify youth voices and solutions as the conversation moves from **ideas to action.**



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AWOLA Cohort 3: Strengthening Women's Leadership Across the PELUM Kenya Network



On 4 June 2026, PELUM Kenya celebrated the graduation of the AWOLA Cohort 3 mentees following the successful completion of their one-year mentorship journey. The graduation recognised the women's growth in leadership, confidence, advocacy and their commitment to advancing agroecology and inclusive food systems. For the PELUM Kenya network, the graduation represents more than the completion of a training programme. Three of the graduating women work directly with PELUM Kenya member organisations, creating an important opportunity for the knowledge, leadership skills and experiences gained through AWOLA to strengthen organisations and communities across the network.

As emerging women leaders, the graduates are now better equipped to influence decision-making, mentor other women, champion gender-responsive agroecology and contribute to policy and movement-building efforts. Their continued engagement as AWOLA alumni will further strengthen the link between the AWOLA programme and the PELUM Kenya network, ensuring that investment in women's leadership translates into wider organisational and community-level change.

Welcoming AWOLA Kenya Cohort 4: Growing the Next Generation of Women Leaders in Agroecology

PELUM Kenya Network is delighted to welcome AWOLA Kenya Cohort 4, marking the beginning of another exciting journey of leadership, mentorship, and transformation. This cohort brings together 6 mentors and 6 mentees, including three outstanding mentees from the PELUM Kenya Network and partners INADES Formation Kenya, CIFORD Kenya, and ISFAA who will join women leaders committed to advancing agroecology and resilient food systems.

The newly selected mentors and mentees participated in a comprehensive orientation that introduced them to the AWOLA Initiative, its vision, achievements, and mentorship approach. Participants explored their roles and expectations and were equipped with practical mentorship tools, including Skills Gap Assessments, Individual Development Plans (IDPs), Mentorship Diaries, and Concept Diaries to guide their year-long leadership journey. The onboarding also created the first opportunity for mentors and mentees to connect, building relationships founded on trust, learning, and collaboration.

Through AWOLA, PELUM Kenya is intentionally investing in the leadership development of women within its network, creating a strong pipeline of women leaders who will strengthen member organizations, champion agroecology, influence policy, and transform food systems across Kenya and beyond.

Investing in women's leadership today is building a stronger generation of agroecology champions ready to influence policy, strengthen communities and transform food systems.



Keeping the Conversation Alive: How AWOLA Webinars Are Transforming Women's Leadership in Agroecology



At AWOLA, we believe that leadership is a journey, not a one-time training. Through our monthly webinar series, we are creating continuous learning and mentorship spaces that are transforming women's leadership across the PELUM Kenya network and strengthening the agroecology movement.

Open to all women within PELUM Kenya member organizations, the webinars bring together mentors, mentees, alumni, women farmers, entrepreneurs, practitioners, and young professionals to learn, connect, and grow together. Each session provides practical leadership skills, inspiration, and opportunities to build relationships across counties and countries.

Over the 4 months, more than 400 women leaders have participated in webinars led by accomplished women in agroecology, business, policy, and social movements. Through honest conversations on resilience, enterprise development, negotiation, and transformative leadership, participants have gained the confidence to step into leadership positions, strengthen their enterprises, and influence change within their communities and organizations. Recent sessions, including **"Beyond Production: How Women Can Create Value and Grow Sustainable Agribusinesses"** and **"Planting the Seeds of Change,"** equipped women with practical strategies on value addition, market access, financing opportunities, and building agroecology movements. The discussions also connected participants to mentors, partners, and professional networks that continue beyond the webinars.

These monthly conversations are doing more than sharing knowledge; they are building a community of women leaders who amplify one another, collaborate across the PELUM Kenya network, and champion agroecology in policy, governance, enterprise, and climate action. By keeping the conversation alive, AWOLA is accelerating a new generation of confident, connected, and transformative women leaders driving resilient agrifood systems across Kenya and Africa.

AWOLA Business Incubation Grant: Accelerating Women's Leadership in Agroecological Entrepreneurship

Women across the PELUM Kenya network are driving innovative agroecological enterprises, yet limited resources and market access often stand in the way of growth. The AWOLA Business Incubation Grant (AWOLA BIG) is helping bridge this gap by providing start-up and scale-up support to women entrepreneurs, enabling them to strengthen their businesses through certification, branding, packaging, mentorship, business development and access to markets and investment opportunities.

Launched under the Africa Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA) programme, the fund builds on the leadership and enterprise journeys of AWOLA mentors, mentees and alumni. From nutritious foods and bio-inputs to skincare, seeds, value-added products and agri-tech solutions, women are turning innovation into viable businesses, creating jobs, increasing incomes and taking stronger leadership roles across agroecology value chains.

When women's ideas are backed with the right resources and opportunities, agroecology becomes not just a pathway to food resilience, but a powerful engine for women's economic empowerment.



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Policies Written With Women's Hands & voices

PELUM Kenya network is turning women's voices into lasting policy change. Through mentorship and leadership development, women who once never imagined participating in formal policy processes are now shaping the future of agroecology. Meet Ms. Charity Ndivo, an AWOLA mentee from INADES Formation Kenya in Makueni County, and Ms. Lucy Weche, an AWOLA mentee from GBIACK Kenya in Kiambu County. Their leadership journeys reflect the transformative power of mentorship. Once aspiring leaders, they are now helping shape Kenya's agroecology future. Recently, they contributed to public participation on the Kiambu Agroecology Bill and CASCOP Bill 2025/2026, ensuring women's voices and farmers' priorities are embedded in county governance. Their stories demonstrate that AWOLA is not only empowering women to participate in policy, but it is equipping them to lead the transition towards inclusive.



Strengthening County-Level Agroecology Advocacy: PELUM Kenya Equips youth & women to Influence County Budgets and Development Plans

PELUM Kenya Network is strengthening the advocacy capacity of its member organizations to ensure agroecology is prioritized in county development plans and budgets across Kenya. In July 6th -8th 2026, the network convened a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Advocacy and Policy Engagement at SACDEP Kenya, bringing together over 30 participants from member organizations, farmer cooperatives, and civil society organizations representing five PELUM Kenya networking zones. The training equipped participants with practical skills to influence county policies, public investment, and decision-making processes that advance resilient agroecological food systems.

Participants gained hands-on knowledge on the county planning and budgeting cycle, stakeholder mapping, social accountability tools, advocacy messaging, and preparing memoranda and citizen manifestos. They also learned how to identify strategic entry points within the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Annual Development Plans (ADPs), County Fiscal Strategy Papers (CFSPs), and county budgets to advocate for increased investment in agroecology.

Strong agroecology policies need strong voices: by equipping member organisations with advocacy and accountability skills, PELUM Kenya is building a network of champions who can turn community priorities into county policies, budgets and investments for resilient food systems.



The training highlighted successful advocacy stories from Makueni and Nyandarua counties, demonstrating that evidence-based citizen engagement can influence policies and unlock investments for agroecological initiatives. As a key outcome, PELUM Kenya is building a cadre of Agroecology Advocacy Champions who will train farmers and community groups, engage county governments, monitor public investments, and champion meaningful public participation in county planning and budgeting processes. Through this initiative, the network aims to increase county financing for agroecology and strengthen accountable, inclusive, and sustainable food systems across Kenya. The training was delivered with support from the Institute of Governance & Social Accountability (TISA) who trained on Social accountability & the Right to Food, URAIA Trust, which gave copies of the constitution to each TOT; Budget Ms. Violet Mbiti from Violet Foundation & Bungoma Civil Society Forum Chair, Mr. Ezekiel Odeoh & Ms. Regin Akimweno from Elgeyo Marakwet Civil Society Forum.





To address the persistent gap in women's land access and ownership, PELUM Kenya supported by GIZ Kenya, PELUM Regional Association & Shibuye Community Health Workers (CBO) has driven transformative change through organized mentorship & capacity building on land rights, representation, resources and strategic media engagement to create awareness on land rights.

Under the Women Capacity Enhancement For Change Agents (WE4R) program, 63 mentees and 15 mentors across 12 counties gained critical training in land rights, land legalisations, administration, succession laws, marriage laws, community paralegalism, and alternative dispute resolution. The initiative yielded tangible impacts such as 21 women allocated farming land at their family land, 13 acres leased for agroecology by young women in Bungoma county, and 6 new sustainable agroecological enterprises launched.

PELUM Kenya has also supported women leaders and change agents to use media as a powerful tool for advocacy. Key highlights for the project is launch of land rights podcast by Mentee Ms. Grace Wawira, who runs a podcast to educate women & youths land rights on Kenya Broadcasting Corporation –Ngemi FM.

PELUM KENYA IN MEDIA

Tuesday, 1 September, 2026 / PEOPLE DAILY

Agroecology summit push for sustainable agri-food systems

by Tony Wafala
@PeopleDailyKe

African youths from across the region converged in Kampala, Uganda, for a summit to boost agroecology businesses, promote knowledge exchange and create opportunities for young people in sustainable agri-food systems.

The Africa Regional Youth Summit on Agroecology Business and Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Kampala, organised by PELUM, was held under the theme, "Investing in Youth for Agroecology Enterprises and Inclusive Policy Change."

Speaking to the press, PELUM Head of Programmes Medias Rihumwa said the summit brought together African youth and stakeholders to share experiences, explore agroecology business opportunities and discuss policies supporting youth-led enterprises. "At our organisation, we focus on different thematic areas, and one of them is youth in agroecology. This summit is organised under the youth and women thematic area of our association," Rihumwa said.

Rihumwa said the summit focused on two key areas agroecology businesses and CAADP Kampala commitments with the latter seeking to promote inclusivity and empower young people to take a more active role in Africa's agri-food systems.

She said the summit also provided young entrepreneurs with an opportunity to showcase their agroecology products and share experiences on how they are building businesses through sustainable farming practices. "As a network, we are working with 1,450 youths across the globe. Therefore, we have brought up this summit as a forum for sharing experiences, with youths showcasing their agroecology products," she said.

Rihumwa said Africa's youthful population presents a major opportunity for the continent to transform its agricultural sector.

60pc
Percentage of Africa's population made up of youth.



Youths from across Africa participating in the African Regional Youth Summit on Agroecology Business and CAADP Kampala. TONY WAFALA

Financing challenges cited for low youth participation in agriculture

Africa's large youth population could drive the growth of sustainable agriculture businesses, but limited access to finance is emerging as a major obstacle to their participation in the sector.

Agriculture organisations and young entrepreneurs are now calling for greater investment in youth-led agroecology enterprises, arguing that the sector can create jobs, strengthen food systems and build resilience to climate change.

The call was made in Kampala, Uganda, where young people from more than 14 African countries con-

verged for the Africa Regional Youth Summit on Agroecology Business and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Kampala commitments. The summit, organised by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) under the theme "Investing in Youth for Agroecology Enterprises and Inclusive Policy Change," brought together young entrepreneurs and stakeholders to exchange knowledge, explore business opportunities and discuss policies affecting youth participation in agriculture.

"Access to finance by youths remains one of the greatest barriers to their active participation in agroecology," said PELUM Head of Programmes Medias Rihumwa, and called for increased investment and financial support to enable young entrepreneurs to establish and expand their businesses. She said Africa's youthful population offered a major opportunity to transform agriculture, particularly as the continent grapples with high youth unemployment and limited economic opportunities. [Juliet Omwile]

NAIROBI 24 July 2026 - IRISA

Five counties roll out agroecology policies to boost climate resilience

Stakeholders are urging more devolved governments to fast-track implementation to strengthen food security.

by AGATHA NGOTIHO

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Audio by IRISA



PELUM Kenya country coordinator Rosinah Mbeya during the 3rd Agroecology Symposium. AGATHA NGOTIHO Kenya political analysis

At least five counties have adopted agroecology policies as Kenya accelerates efforts to promote climate-resilient and sustainable farming.

Muranga, Makeni, Nakuru, West Pokot and Kiambu have already developed county agroecology policies, while Trans Nzoia, Turkana, Laikipia, Kirinyaga and Machakos are drafting similar frameworks.

Stakeholders are urging more devolved governments to fast-track implementation to strengthen food security.

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya country coordinator Rosinah Mbeya said counties must move beyond policy development by allocating adequate budgets and implementing programmes that directly support farmers. She spoke during the Third Agroecology Symposium.

Mbeya said although agroecology is gaining momentum in Kenya, greater political commitment, increased financing and faster implementation are needed to help farmers cope with climate change, rising production costs and declining soil health.

Kenya continues to grapple with multiple agricultural challenges, including climate change, emerging crop pests and diseases and increasing input costs driven by global economic disruptions.

"These challenges are making farming increasingly difficult, particularly for smallholder farmers. However, they also present an opportunity to transform our food systems and build farming systems that are more resilient and less dependent on external inputs," Mbeya said.

She described agroecology as an environmentally sustainable approach that restores ecosystems while improving agricultural productivity, conserving biodiversity and protecting human health and the environment.

Mbeya said the focus should now shift from developing strategies to implementing them through adequate funding and practical support for farmers.

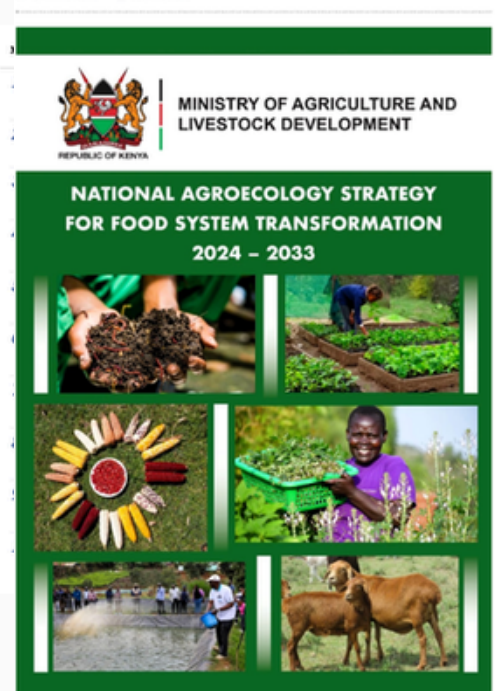
"The discussion is no longer about developing strategies. It is now about implementation, budgeting and ensuring these policies benefit farmers on the ground," she said.

Mbeya said agroecology continues to attract support from development partners, researchers and policymakers.

Agroecology Takes Root as Kenya Shifts from Policy to Action in Food Systems Transformation

Home » Agriculture Policy » Agroecology Takes Root as Kenya Shifts from Policy to Action in Food Systems Transformation

By Kilimo News July 23, 2026



By Kimuri Mwangi

Kenya is accelerating its transition toward sustainable agriculture as government, farmers, researchers, county governments and development partners push to make agroecology a cornerstone of the country's food systems transformation. [Install Solar Panels](#)

The Third National Agroecology Symposium, which opened on Wednesday at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS) in Nairobi, marks a significant step from policy formulation to the implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (2024-2033).





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