Salutation by the Country Coordinator,

Sawubona! I wish to welcome the PELUM-Kenya member organizations and partners to the third issues of the PELUM-Kenya's INFOSPOT. This issue summarizes and reports on activities for second half year 2009 and first quarter of 2010. Unlike previously where the INFOSPOT was mainly informing members of the Country Desk activities, we are enriching the flyer to include summary of major activities being implemented by the member organizations. In future, the INFOSPOT will be used as a tool to disseminate information to member organizations and partners.

The next Issue of the INFOSPOT will be for events from April – December 2010 and will be developed in December 2010. We therefore urge members to participate and provide networking information and also welcome their views and comments on the INFOSPOT and especially on how it can be improved further. We hope that the INFOSPOT will in future play a major role in sharing information more so promote ecological land use practices (*elum*) which is the core business of PELUM Association.

Zacha<mark>ry Makanya</mark> COUNTRY COORDINATOR

"Networking with integrity creates a greater willingness of all parties to be part of a human conduit to serve as energy and resource to one another. Sometimes you will give more than you give and sometimes you will get back more than you give."



INFOSPOT

SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2009 AND FIRST HALF OF 2010

Indigenous Food Community Exhibitions

RODI Kenya organized and held their first local community exhibition of Indigenous foods in the Lake Region of Kenya with the Luo community; YARD mobilized the Kikuyu Community in Central Kenya and organized a Local food exhibition. Secondary school students as well as the local residents in various development sectors of health and agriculture participated.

RODI Kenya and BERMA organized for exhibitions during a visit by TAABCO Partners in October 2009 during training on HIV/AIDS and food security organized by TAABCO in Kisumu for Bread for the World partners. BERMA also organized an exhibition in October 2009. The theme of the exhibition was linking HIV and AIDS and the use of Indigenous foods for management of the pandemic. The exhibition also had testimonies from beneficiaries of the training on usefulness of Indigenous and local foods in boosting the immune system for the infected persons

In all the exhibitions, trophies were awarded to the winning group and gifts presented to the top three groups. The 5th Implementing Partner of the Indigenous food Project (INADES Formation) could still not hold an exhibition since the community was faced with shortage of rains and the harvest was poor. This exhibition will be held in February 2010.

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with INADES Formation organized and held the Indigenous food exhibition among the Kamba Community in Kathonzweni Division in February 2010. The occasion was attended by several members of the Community. The Communities exhibited different types of Indigenous foods.

Farmer Exchange and Learning Visit

The farmer exchange visit was organized and held in Kisumu on 22nd October 2009. The PELUM Kenya RIM Programme Officer and Programmes Operations Manager Participated in the exchange and learning visit which was hosted by RODI Kenya and the Luo Community. A visit to two farms was made to learn about chicken rearing and goat keeping. An exhibition was organized and held in Kajulu Division of Kisumu East District at the Chief's camp where all the 10 project Community groups were represented by 3 group members each. Three other community groups who have joined the project from the ripple effects were also present. There were officers from the Ministry of AgricultureMoA and ministry of Health who have been collaborating with RODI Kenya in Kisumu District. A total of 21 visiting project representatives of farmers and field extension officers from the IPs were present with well over 100 participants at the exhibition venue. The theme of this visit was only partially met as the community groups are not up-to-date in agro-processing and on-farm marketing engagements. It is therefore paramount to further engage the groups in revisiting this phase of the project to strengthen their participation.

Indigenous Food Project—Impact Assessment and Evaluation

An evaluation of the Indigenous Food Project was carried out by CODIT Consultants. The Consultants visited the five community groups and against the set project objectives analyzed the results of the Indigenous Food Promotion Project, based on each of the four Project Components i.e. Production, Consumption, Value addition and marketing of the indigenous foods. The general results were that the project had created substantial impact at community level. However the identified gaps would require bridging in order to bring meaning to the production and consumption phases which were duly successful.

Some recommendations included:

- Gender issues be clearly mainstreamed in program activities
- Deliberate efforts to incorporate youth
- Encouraging farmers to adopt a business orientation to farming
- Business and marketing plans be developed
- Value chains be developed for respective sites to provide clear points at which profit can be enhanced by the communities
- Resources e.g. micro-finance schemes for groups to bulk and value addition
- More awareness creation and marketing be carried out for indigenous, local, traditional and medicinal foods
- Monitoring frame work with clear targets firmed up with the baselines information
- Crucial to create community seed banks

Establishment of rural resource centres especially for purposes of groups learning and training is encouraged

Dissemination Workshop on Indigenous Food Project findings

The Indigenous Food Project Partners held a one-day meeting to share the results of the end term evaluation survey. This meeting also brought on board other indigenous food actors including the Ministry of Agriculture department, hoteliers, information dissemination agencies, organizations working with women, the PROLIN-

Publicizing the Indigenous Food Project through Media

Farmer Led Documentation (FLD) Toolkit

After the FLD Pilot project a 5-day write shop was organized and held in Kampala in October 2009. The write shop was aimed at documenting present practical guidelines for the implementation and facilitation of FLD, illustrated by concrete FLD experiences. The participants were people with practical experiences in facilitating a farmer-led approach to documentation to guarantee a diverse and relevant range of experiences among the overall group of participants, creating a balanced group in terms of gender. A draft toolkit was developed and will be pilot-tested in 2010 and the results disseminated among the PELUM Association members.

The OISAT Regional Consultative Process

The online Information Service for Non-Chemical Pest Management in the Tropics (OISAT) Regional Consultative Workshop was held in Moshi Tanzania in October 2009. The workshop targeted PELUM representatives from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Zambia. The 4-day workshop examined the different environments in which PELUM Subregional member Organizations are working in and the possibilities of introducing OISAT methodologies using diverse Information Technological set-ups.

OISAT is an online database, which was developed by PAN Germany and the project was piloted in Kenya from 2005 – 2006. The project aims at out scaling and up scaling the application of the methodologies elaborated on the website. OISAT is a user-friendly easy to read online database (www.oisat.org) with non-chemical pest management methodologies which basically apply resources which are locally available.

Kenya Biodiversity Coalition (KBioC) activities

In an effort to sustain a productive campaign strategy several meetings have been ongoing within KBIOC. Most were consultative, strategizing, analyzing meetings with an aim to strengthen awareness creation on GMOs and lobby for amendments of the biosafety act. KBioC engaged a lawyer to analyze the biosafety act and to give proposals on what needs to be incorporated for strengthening. Other KBioC meetings were aimed at coming up with the best ways to strengthen the coalition. There is a need to hold an annual general meeting soonest possible and to develop a strategic plan for the coalition operations. For those that are members of KBIOC look out onto the events announcement to send representatives from your organization.

2 documentaries were developed, "GMOs/GE; New hope or a pack of false promises in Kenya" **and** "Indigenous food, available alternative to food security"

The documentaries were aired through the citizen TV local station. Information was drawn from several corners with a major aim to give information to the small scale farmers, consumers and general public on what GMOS are, concerns and how farmers can preserve own seeds to plant instead of using seed from unknown sources and the alternative of promoting Indigenous food. The documentaries also highlighted some of the cases on what happened in South Africa which was the first African Country to adopt and produce GMOs.

Seminars for local faith based organizations and process of establishing GMO free zones

"We cannot allow our agriculture to depend on transnational corporations, whose main purpose is big profit, no matter what happens to the natural environment and the health of people and animals. Preservation of traditional seeds and plants in family rural farms is the way to protect biological treasures and provide food safety."

The main target was the extension staff from PELUM-Kenya member organizations, farmer leaders from those organizations and influential religious leader from within the catchment area. The aim of the meeting was to discuss on the process of how to establish GMO free zones among the area of operations of the represented organizations and finally spread out to all PELUM-Kenya other members. The Kenya biosafety act is in place and has some weak areas that require amendments. In the act it's stated clearly that labeling of GMOs products, seeds and derivatives of GMOs is not mandatory. African and Kenya farmers usually plant the seeds stored from previously harvested crops which is preserved using traditional methods. The farmers agreed unanimously that GMOs adoption poses a big threat to the indigenous seeds. Indigenous seeds are our heritage and national treasure it was agreed that it's better to practice ecological agriculture instead of GMOs



Farmers of Arotomito parish, Uganda rehearsing a song about the ground nut seed



Information on Agro fuels in a brochure-to read you can enlarge

Gender mainstreaming workshop

In an effort to move towards gender equity PELUM-Kenya organized and held training for its members on gender mainstreaming. The major aspect was to sensitize them on approaches, methodologies and concepts in gender mainstreaming. A road map on gender mainstreaming was developed and will soon be shared with all the members for adoption and as a guide.

Vision statement –"A gender sensitive PELUM-Kenya"

Objectives

At the Board

To engender operations, structures and policies of the boards, secretariat and member organizations by 2012

At Member Organizations

To enhance capacity of at least 50% of member organizations to mainstream gender

At the Secretariat

To enhance the knowledge and skills of the PELUM Kenya Secretariat in gender mainstreaming

'The Future of Agrodok Series' Workshop

A 2-day meeting was organized by CTA and Agromisa in Wageningen in Netherlands in October 2009 with the main aim of examining the direction the Agrodok series was recommended to take in the wake of increasing electronic popularity as a method of communication. Participants were also introduced to Web 2.0 communication tools and formed an online communication Platform on *ning*, one of the tools; known as the Agrodok Online partners Communication Platform (www.agrodokonline.ning.com)

Monitoring and Evaluation

PELUM-Kenya road map to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation tool is in top gear. A Consultant hired by the Organization perused PELUM Kenya documents and held talks with the Staff. The Consultants shared their findings in a meeting attended by all the Staff. It was agreed that a workshop will be organized for the PELUM-Kenya Staff and a few Resource Persons to develop the M&E tools. The Consultant also made a presentation on various tools at a CW G meeting held later in March 2009.

PPBMEL Workshop

A 3 days workshop on Participatory Planning Budgeting Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (PPBMEL) was held for PELUM-Kenya Staff in December 2009. The workshop was facilitated by TAABCO who are Transfer of Facilitation for Bread for the World. 13 participated including 2 Participants from RODI-Kenya and one from NECOFA were present. PPBMEL is an interrelated process that is designed to ensure that programmes are relevant to the identified needs, resources are allocated effectively, and aims are realized as well as feed the learning into the future. PPBMEL will ensure effective program interventions and strengthening of PELUM Kenya program management and reporting. The concepts advocate for results based management systems, identifying challenges then addressing these challenges;

HIV/AIDS and foods security.

PELUM-Kenya CEP Programme Officer and members from RODI and BERMA participated in Food Security and HIV/ AIDS held in Kisumu in October 2009. The workshop participants were Bread for the World partners from East Africa and Central Kenya Region. The main purpose of the workshop was to share experiences on HIV/AIDS in relation to food security. The workshop was organized and facilitated by TAABCO.

Field visits were organized to BERMA and RODI (Implementing Partners in Indigenous food Project) for the participants to be exposed to Indigenous and Traditional foods. The Participants visited 2 Prisons, one of the RODI Prisoners Rehabilitation Programmes (PREP) and later joined the Community members in a food exhibition competition event. 5 community groups participated in the competition. The winner was awarded a trophy and all the groups were issued certificates. In BERMA the participants visited a community group which consisted of single mothers majority of whom are growing indigenous crops and also visited Individual farmers. The participants later participated in an Indigenous food exhibition and competition. The occasion was graced by Senior Government and Local Leaders. The competing groups were awarded gifts, farming equipments and certificates. The Participants had an opportunity to hear and listen stories and testimonies of experiences of Peoples leaving with HIV/AIDS and how the indigenous foods have been of benefit to them.



The workshop Participants during a field visit in one of the BERMA Community members



A group consisting of single Women show their farm. The Indigenous vegetables in the background are very nutritious and source of minerals useful for boosting immunity for HIV/AIDS victims.

Country Working Group meetings

The meeting was held in August 2009 in Meru and was hosted by Meru Dry Land during the meetings presentations were made on various issues. Members had an opportunity to provide feedback on governance and finance management progress. Presentation were made on Value addition, Resource Oriented Development Approach (RODA), Banking opportunities for farmers in Cooperative banks, Climate change, About Slow food, Benefit Led Development Approaches Participatory Marketing Chain Approach (PMCA), National NGO Budget briefings. Members were briefed on the Potential partnership with MASHAV. Members also had a session about Slow food and were urged to join the Slow food foodmovement

Members had an opportunity to visit some of the Meru Dry Land Community projects and learnt the dry farming technologies applied and water catchment projects

PELUM-Kenya Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The PELUM-Kenya AGM was held in September 2009 in Western Kenya and hosted by WRCCS. The Company Secretary invited the members. WHERE 92 Participants were present. The first day was basically the discussion on the agendas that had been sent by the Company Secretary. 3 Persons per Organization were invited, the Chief Executive Officer, (C.E.O) A Senior Staff and A Farmer Leader. Besides other Annual General Meeting business, the Members had an opportunity to share sessions about Poultry keeping and Documentation on successive innovation in African Agriculture for Sustainable Development. A field visit was organized where members had an opportunity to visit projects implemented by the Western Region CCS.





Country Desk Staff visits to Member Organizations.

A team of 5 PELUM-Kenya Staff visited WRCCS on 9th September 2009 a day before the Annual General meeting 2009. The Staff visited the Office, held a sharing session with WRCCS Staff and later went for a field visit. Both Organizations shared about their Organizations and the projects they implemented. WRCCS is one of the six ACK Dioceses in Kenya. WRCCS works in Regions which are issues. Based.

Sugar cane Region Lake Region- fishing Mountainous Region- Mt Elgon Eastern area- Farming region

The Organization has Sustainable development projects which also includes promotion of Amaranthus. They have initiated Business Development Plan, Building Local democracy—i.e. building the capacities of the communities in racking development activities.



A section of WRCCS Staff during a sharng session with the PELUM-Kenya Staff

Country Desk visits

The PELUM-Kenya Country Desk staff visited the Uganda and Rwanda Country Desks and some of their member organizations for information exchange and closer interaction. The Research and Information Officer (RIM) and the Accountant visited the PELUM-Uganda Country Desk from August 2009 and the Capacity Enhancement Programme (CEP) Officer and the Accountant visited PELUM-Rwanda Country Desk in October 2009. The PELUM-Kenya Staff and their counterparts had an opportunity to discuss and share about work implemented at the Country Desks.

The purposes of the visits are;

To meet other Country Desks Staff, and learn about their activities.

To share experiences and best practices for both PELUM-Kenya and other Country Desks.

To visit the Country Desks Members Organization communities (field visit) for more learning and experience sharing.

To promote Regionalism in PELUM-Network

In Rwanda PELUM- Staff had an opportunity to visit other PELUM members i.e. Dulhamic Adri, Rwanda Development Organization and Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI). RWARRI facilitates AMIZERO institute which conduct vocational trainings to the farmers in Agriculture and Appropriate Technology. A field visit was organized where Staff visited some of the Famers who had undergone the trainings in the Institute.



PELUM-Keny and WRCCS Staff at a farmers homestead during a field visit. to WRCCS Communities

True Success: by Ndiki Ndungu

True Success: is simply the realization and obtainment of a worthy ideal or result that your heart is deeply connected to it. It is what births PASSION and your SUCCESS PASSION. It is why some people explode out of the gates and create Success easily, and others struggle all their life. They are operating on a whole different realm of Success and actions. It is a Success that is SOAKED with Emotion, Powered by Passion, Driven by Destiny, and Forged with the Fire of the Heart.

Then we would say that Success and your heart have a definite connection in any type of True Success, and any kind that is long term.

That is why that many athletes and artists have long careers. Their heart is attached to their Success. That is why entrepreneurs many times have long careers. They are operating in their Passion and True Success Power. Many business people today have experienced True Success in their life on an ongoing basis.

People accomplish things everyday. They accomplish results and more. People Succeed everyday in the workplace as well as the professional field. But few obtain True Success. True Success has to be Passion driven, with a heart On Fire. True Success is birthed from a Dream that cannot be denied. It is driven by a hunger that cannot be stopped. It is driven by a focus that is unrelenting. It is driven by actions that will not be contained. And it is driven by a Force that knows no failure.

In order to succeed as individual businesses or as a network true success should be the end result or indicator to guide us whether we are really on the right track.

The key is to be true to your community's norms and values. You can't just force yourself on people and try to sell them something they don't want. you have to be open-minded when those early opportunities present themselves. Whatever it is that you're successful at, that has to be the No. 1 goal. You have to respect your efforts and the product you create.



A farmer trained at AMIZERO Training Center talking about banana farming during a field visit. The Bananas are the main source of Income for the Amizero Community Community

MASHAV TRAINING

21 members from PELUM-Kenya participated in the Organic and Ecofriemdly Agriculture Course held from $2^{\rm nd}$ to $22^{\rm nd}$ March 2010. The Course was held in Israel at MASHAV training Center. The participants were exposed to various techniques, greenhouses, compost making, and drip irrigation among others. This was done in collaboration with Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation (CINADCO) of Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which operates as the main professional and operational arm for Israel's development assistance agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre for International Cooperation .



Some of the participants during a visit to Jerusalem

Sustainable Agriculture Information Network (SUSTAINET East Africa) $\qquad \qquad \text{membership}$

PELUM-Kenya joined SUSTAINET Membership. This was after participating in meeting that PELUM-Kenya was invited in Mombasa September 2009. The aim of SUSTAINET is to support the scaling up of examples of good practice in sustainable agriculture. SUSTAINET networks have been established among institutions at local, regional and international level. In Germany, members of the network include both state institutions (the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit - German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the German Council for Sustainable Development) and nongovernmental organisations Bread for the World, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action) and Misereor (the German Catholic Bishops' Organisation for Development Cooperation)). In addition there are SUSTAINET networks in three pilot regions in India, **East Africa** and the Andean countries.

Staff Retreat

PELUM-Kenya Staff went for a Staff retreat to enhance Team spirit. The Staff visited Hells gate in Naivasha. After a thrilling game drive, the Staff embarked on walking through the famous Njorowa Gorge. It was put very clearly by the Guides that once mind is set to go on there is no way one can come back due to difficulties in climbing back through the gorge. "Forward ever backward never"



The Participants amazed by the healthy carrots farmed using drip irrigation during a visit in NEGEV desert



PELUM-Kenya Staff shows their might. With determination there is nothing impossible

Networking with International Partners

Jan Warnback of SSNC Visited PELUM Kenya and paid a visit to the Thika Rescue Centre Project in Thika and thereafter held a meeting with two YARD farmer and community groups on. Discussions with the groups were on Bio-intensive Agriculture, Value Addition of Indigenous Food and on market linkages. Jan later visited ARDP farmers and Community Projects in Kuresoi Divisions on the Beekeeping project, farmer kitchen gardens and sustainable Agriculture.

Sabine Hebrink of OXFAM Novib and Mary Jo Kakinda the Secretary General of the PELUM Association Regional Desk visited the Thika Men's Prison projects of RODI and participated in the graduation ceremony and thereafter visited a community group working with YARD.

Excellence by Ann Wangombe

Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude."Ralph Marston A gentleman once visited a temple under construction where he saw a sculptor making an idol of God. Suddenly he noticed a similar idol lying nearby. Surprised, he asked the sculptor, "Do you need two statues of the same idol?"No," said the sculptor without looking up, "We need only one, but the first one got damaged at the last stage. "The gentleman examined the idol and found no apparent damage... "Where is the damage?" he asked. "There is a scratch on the nose of the idol," said the sculptor, still busy with his work. "Where are you going to install the idol?"The sculptor replied that it would be installed on a pillar twenty feet high. "If the idol is that high, who is going to know that there is a scratch on the nose?" the gentleman asked. The sculptor stopped his work, looked up at the gentleman, smiled and said, "I know it and God knows it!"

Upcoming activities up to June 2010 at the Country Desk

- Radio broadcast on Indigenous Foods of the SUSALI II Programme will be aired on national radio in May 2010
- The book "Hidden Resources" which was published by PELUM Kenya and Agromisa with the Support of CTA will be available from mid year (2010) at the PELUM Kenya Country Desk. The book is an Agro-Special categorized under the Agrodok series, documenting Kenyan experiences of success case studies on Non-Timber Forest Products with an aim of livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation
- PELUM Kenya will hold a workshop on analysis of the value and market chain with a focus of building the components involved and implement them in June 2010
- A farmer learning and exchange visit to communities carrying out seed conservation will be carried out in June 2010
- Upcoming Annual general meeting for all Kenya biodiversity coalition
- Organize one learning visit for small scale farmers to visit to Asia/pacific on GMOs
- Organize and hold one (1) seed security system workshop and include post harvest technologies
- Develop and distribute 2,000 campaign Information, education and communication (IEC) materials and sign boards declaring areas as GMO free zones and regions.
- Develop and air one newspaper supplement in the local daily on Genetic Engineering
- PELUM-Kenya Annual General Meeting, May 27th to 28th 2010– HoST Organization will be INADES Formation in Machakos
- Launch and distribute the PELUM-Kenya HIV& AIDS Workplace Policy in May 2010



Students, Parents and ALIN Focal Group Members Watch a Water Harvesting CD During the Launch of Ng'arua's Community Knowledge

PELUM-Kenya Members Upcoming events

BARAKA

- The cultural day [popularly known here as Utamaduni day]. This year will have Sudan, Lesotho, Tanzania, Uganda and a number of communities from all over Kenya will participate - 30th May 2010
- Recruitment of new class interviews will be held on 16th April, 13th May, 25th June and 16th July
- Annual field day for schools and college on 16th June 2010
- ullet For farmers from Molo and all neighboring districts on 18^{th} June 2010
- Graduation 3rd December 2010

BERMA

Tree Planting Exercise,20000 trees will be planted by May 2010.

INADES

- AGM (Orientation Committee/ NA) April 8th to 10th 2010 Machakos
- Follow up on IFIKO Assoc. Life April 12th to 16th 2010 Machakos
- Marketing(Agobussiness) C H F April 19th 30th 2010 Machako
- Round Table Conference (Donors) May 31st -June 4th to be confirmed
- Host PELUM-Kenya AGM from 27th to 28th May 2010

NECOFA

- Restoration of the Mau and are supporting establishment of indigenous tree nurseries in school (so far 6), community groups(so far 5) and central one for the organization. Prepare 500,000 seedlings for planting by the long rains in April/May.
- "Food and nutrition security for households affected by HIV/AIDS" in Molo district. Currently implementing Presidia projects on 'Mucunu' chicken; Pumkin and Stinging nettle with 3 groups in Molo. constructing nursery school for Tuinuane IDP village
- Establishing water system for Kiambiriria school garden project

ALIN

- Four Capacity building events will be held at Merti Maarifa centre (Isiolo district)
 an initiative of ALIN and Drought Management Initiative project (DMI) that is
 implemented within the framework of the Arid Lands Resources Management
 Project (ALRMP).
- Plan to re-launch BAOBAB that will incorporate Kilimo Endelevu Africa before end of April 2010
- ALIN in partnership with Ngarua maarifa centre hosted by LACKIN will launch Sokopepe, a commodity resource platform that enables farmers and pastoralists to market their products electronically (June). Visit the Ngarua Maarifa centre blog http://ngaruamaarifa.blogspot.com/
- ALIN will publish TWO issues of Joto Africa http://www.alin.net/?media centre/publications/joto afrika and disseminate within sub Sahara Africa. Send us your articles on climate change for inclusion.
- ALIN in collaboration with Community Based Biodiversity Conservation Films (CBCF) http://conservationfilms.org/community/ will develop a simple manual on film making through a 'writeshop' to be held in May 10. The manual titled "Filmmaking with Communities for Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Improvements" will bridge the current info gap and enable many scientists, development agencies, institutions, governments, development workers and communities embrace new ICT tools and maximize new opportunities created by installation of the optic fibre cable in the region. We're seeking for support towards this and requesting stakeholders with knowledge, experiences and case studies to send us their manuscripts.
- ALIN staffs will make regular visits to members and participate at focal group meetings in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.
- For more info please visit our new website www.alin.net

Photo Courtesy of ALIN