



Networking for a greener Africa.

# PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LAND USE MANAGEMENT (PELUM) KENYA

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## EDITORS' NOTE



Welcome to the third edition of PELUM Kenya quarterly newsletter.

Among the issues featured in this newsletter is the 2016 Country Working Group (CWG) meeting that took place in the month of September. This issue has also featured the various visitors that PELUM Kenya received during the quarter among them a visit by the President for African Japan Forum, a visit by PELUM Uganda and PELUM Swaziland.

This publication is also glad to share about an organic market forum and an agro-ecology forum which took place in the months of August and September 2016 respectively. Enjoy the reading!

**Rosinah Mbenya,**  
**Programme Officer– Research, Information Management and Marketing**  
**PELUM Kenya**

*Do you want to learn more about PELUM Kenya? Do you want to partner and support PELUM Kenya in the accomplishment of its mission? Do you want to walk and accompany PELUM Kenya in its development journey? Then, visit our web site: [www.pelum.net](http://www.pelum.net), or our facebook page [PELUMKenya](https://www.facebook.com/PELUMKenya) or our twitter handle [@PELUMKenya](https://twitter.com/PELUMKenya), Or write to us at [pelumkenya@pelum.net](mailto:pelumkenya@pelum.net);*

*NB: PELUM Kenya is a registered network in Kenya and receives support from partners, well-wishers and friends directly.*

## ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network which currently comprises of 49 Member Organizations

### Our Vision

Empowered and prosperous communities deriving their livelihoods from sustainable land use.

### Our Mission

To promote participatory ecological land use management practices for improved livelihoods among smallholder farmers in Kenya.

### Our Core Values

1. Innovativeness and Creativity
2. Equity and Justice
3. Gender Sensitivity
4. Transparency and Accountability
5. Commitment to partnership and action for result and impact

### Strategic Focus Areas

Capacity Enhancement and Networking  
Campaign, Advocacy and Lobbying  
Research, Information Management and Marketing  
Results Based Management

## PELUM SWAZILAND VISITS PELUM KENYA LED BY MS. TSAKASILE DLAMINI—COUNTRY COORDINATOR, PELUM SWAZILAND

PELUM Swaziland team led by Ms. Tsakasile Dlamini, the Country Coordinator visited PELUM Kenya on 18th August, 2016. The team was welcomed by the PELUM Kenya Coordinator Mr. Zachary Makanya, Senior Programme Officer- Capacity Enhancement and Networking Officer Mr. Jeff Kahuho and Ms. Maryleen Micheni the Programmes Operation Manager. The team visited Organic Agriculture Centre Kenya (OACK), a PELUM Kenya Member Organization and its farmer group Gitaigua Farmers where they were welcomed by Mr. Stephen Wainaina the Director ,OACK. The team also had a moment to interact with Mr. Ngugi Mutura; PELUM Association founder and the Director of SACDEP Kenya one of the pioneer members of PELUM Kenya. The visiting team lauded the great networking experiences learnt during the visit and informed all that they will apply the knowledge acquired to strengthen PELUM Swaziland.



*On the left is PELUM Swaziland team (front row third from the right is Ms. Tsakasile– PELUM Swaziland Country Coordinator) with PELUM Kenya staff and on the right are field visits to Gitaigua Farmers Group, affiliated to OACK a PELUM Kenya MO during the visit to PELUM Kenya*

## LEARNING AND EXPOSURE EXCHANGE ON SEED SYSTEMS BY PELUM UGANDA

On the 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2016, PELUM Uganda staff and four of its Member Organization's staff visited PELUM Kenya to learn about seed security systems among the Kenyan small holder farmers. The visit entailed field visits to PELUM Kenya MOs namely NECOFA and Seed Savers Network, Women Farmer Groups with Seed Banking In Nagum and Gilgil Villages and Sigowet Self Help Irish Potato farmers' group in Akresoi North were also visited. The team as well visited Egerton University.



*Farm visit and learning about seed testing and sampling by PELUM Uganda team in Kenya*

## THE PRESIDENT FOR AFRICA JAPAN FORUM MS. NAOKO TSUYAMA VISITS PELUM KENYA

The President of Africa Japan Forum Ms. Naoko Tsuyama visited PELUM Kenya at their Country Secretariat offices on the 30th August 2016. The aim of the visit was to learn more about PELUM Kenya work as a network and explore areas of collaboration. After the office visit, the visitors visited farmers working with PELUM Kenya through its Member Organization Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Kenya (GBIACK). Ms. Tsuyama was impressed to witness the great work that PELUM Kenya is engaged in.



*The President of Africa Japan Forum (third from right) with PELUM Kenya staff (Maryleen Micheni– Programme Operations Manager, Rosinah Mbenya– Programme Officer, Zachary Makanya– Country Coordinator and John Macharia - National Coordinator SCOPE*

## 2016 COUNTRY WORKING GROUP MEETING

PELUM Kenya held its 2016 Country Working Group (CWG) on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Golden Palace Hotel Nakuru. The CWG meeting was attended by 54 participants among them PELUM Kenya staff and three PELUM Kenya board members. During the meeting, members clustered themselves in to their respective zones, reviewed the progress made by the zonal structures and came up with recommendations for strengthening the zonal networking structures and systems. In her closing remarks, Ms. Anne Nashipae, the regional vice-chairperson for PELUM Association and also a co-opted board member for PELUM Kenya expressed her confidence on the zonal networking progress by PELUM Kenya and encouraged all members to keep up the spirit of networking. Mr. Zachary Makanya, the Country Coordinator also expressed his confidence on the support that PELUM Kenya members have continued to give to the zonation process emphasizing that the future of PELUM Kenya is based on strong zonal structures.



*On the left is CWG participants and on the right are group discussion by Central Rift zone members on strengthening zonal networking*

## FARMERS' AGRO-ECOLOGY FORUM

PELUM Kenya in partnership with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) organized a 2-day forum from 8th – 9th September 2016 at the Jumuia Resorts in Nakuru for small scale farmers on Agro-ecology. This was both a capacity building forum aimed at training the participants on the broad practices, principles and issues on agro-ecology and deliberate on issues that affect small holder farmers in Kenya. The farmers who were representing 18 Counties urged the government to reject GMOS and instead embrace and promote agro-ecology for a healthier nation. The CEC for water, environment and natural resources for Nakuru County Mr. Richard Rop also attended the forum. The event was featured in the nation newspaper. follow this link to view: <http://www.nation.co.ke/counties/nakuru/embrace-climate-smart-agriculture/1183314-3379004-n76b2iz/index.html>



*Farmer exhibitions; on the right is PELUM Kenya Country Coordinator; Mr. Zachary Makanya, the regional vice chairperson for PELUM Association ;Ms. Anne Nashipae and County Executive Commissioner for water, environment and natural resources for Nakuru County Mr. Richard Rop*

## ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MARKET FORUM

On the 25th August 2016, PELUM Kenya held an Organic Agriculture Market Forum at the Sportsview Hotel, Kasarani. The forum brought together over 100 participants comprised of PELUM Kenya Member Organizations, farmers, organic traders, organic input suppliers and organic support services; certification bodies, government representatives and financial institutions. Four panelists' sessions comprising of organic market players were held with interactive plenary sessions. Some of the successful organic traders such as Kate's Organics, Winnie's Pure Health, Organic Farmer Market, Jungle Nuts and Bridges Organic Restaurant actively took part in the event. Later in the day, an organic exhibition by farmers, traders, input suppliers and organic support bodies was held. The forum provided a forum for linking the organic enterprises to market opportunities for livelihood improvement.



*From left: Sampling of cactus juice from Permaculture Research Institute and Participants engaging with Kate's Organics exhibitors during organic market forum*