



PELUM KENYA

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya works with its Member Organisations to promote Ecological Land Use Management practices for improved livelihoods among small holder farmers and pastoralists.

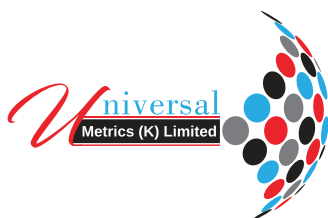
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The views herein shall not necessarily be taken to reflect the official opinion of PELUM Kenya or its Funding Partners.

Editorial, Design, Layout and Printing by:



Mwangaza Plaza 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 38461-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 746 734 664, +254 726 586 587
Email: info@constructiontimes.co.ke

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PROGRAMME FOR PELUM KENYA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI ON FRIDAY 27TH NOV 2020

TIME	SESSIONS	FACILITATOR (S)
8.00 am- 8.30 am	Setting up of all the Exhibitions	PELUM Kenya team
8.30 am –9.30 am	Registration and Ushering in of Guests and onset of entertainment	PELUM Kenya team
9.30 am –10.30 am	☞ Opening Prayers ☞ The Kenya National Anthem ☞ Welcoming Remarks	Mr. Edward Muiruri, Programme Officer; Agroenterprise & Market Development- PELUM Kenya Master of Ceremony Mr. Ndiki Ndung'u, Finance and Administrative Manager- PELUM Kenya
10.30am- 10.45am	Networking Tea Break	Safari Park Hotel
10.45 am – 11.45 pm	Exhibitions and Gallery Walk	Ms. Evelyn Kaumba, Programme Officer; M&E- PELUM Kenya
11.45 am-12.00 pm	Reading of the Communique by Mr. Collins Ochieng, Chairperson of Board of Directors, PELUM Kenya	Ms. Mary Irungu, Programme Officer; Advocacy & Communications- PELUM Kenya
12.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Introduction and History of PELUM Association & PELUM Kenya	Mr. Zachary Makanya, Country Coordinator/C.E.O- PELUM Kenya
	PELUM Kenya Documentary and Photo Story Short remarks by representatives from key stakeholders ☞ Farmer Leader, Ms. Caroline Anyona ☞ Former Staff Representative- Ms. Monica Chege & Ms. Carolyne Mukeku ☞ Staff Representative- Senior Programme Officer; Capacity Enhancement & Networking- Mr. Jeff Kahuho ☞ Mr. Morris Murangili, Branch Manager- Cooperative Bank, Thika ☞ Member Organizations' Representative- Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri, C.E.O- RODI ☞ Ms. Teresa Gitonga, Program Manager- International Tree Foundation	Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, Programmes Operation Manager, PELUM Kenya
	☞ Mr. Henry Kinyua, Chairperson- Coffee Board Kenya ☞ Mr. Joshua K. Cheboiwo, Director- KEFRI ☞ Hon. Gathuru Mburu, MCA- Kamburu Ward, Kiambu County ☞ Hon. Mary Kamau, C.E.C; Education, Gender, Culture & Social Services- Kiambu County. ☞ Hon. David Kuria, C.E.C; Agriculture, Crop Production and Irrigation- Kiambu County ☞ Ms. Lea Boit, Deputy Director; Agriculture- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries ☞ Dr. David Amudavi, Executive Director / C.E.O- BvAT	Mr. Zachary Makanya Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya
	Short Speeches by ☞ Mr. Ngugi Mutura, Founder PELUM Association, also Executive Director, SACDEP Kenya. ☞ Mr. Hannigton Owegi, Secretary General, PELUM Regional Association ☞ Ms. Anne Nashipae, Chairperson, PELUM Regional Association ☞ Mr. Collins Ochieng, PELUM Kenya Board Chair	
	Short Speeches by the Guests of Honour ☞ Ms. Gudi Alkemade, First Secretary Water and Climate, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN HABITAT Nairobi ☞ Hon. Ledama Ole Kina, Senator- Narok County	
	Unveiling of the PELUM Association monument	
2.00 pm-2.45 pm	Networking Luncheon	Safari Park Hotel
2.45 pm-3.15 pm	Launch of the Greening a Village (GaV) Programme by Ms. Gudi Alkemade	Mr. Zachary Makanya Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya
3.15 pm-3.45 pm	Presentation of Awards Cake cutting by Mr. Sebastian Wambugu, Board Member- PELUM Kenya & Mary Kamau, CEC, Education, Gender, Culture & Social Services, Kiambu County.	Ms. Manei Naanyu, Coordinator, EOAI Regional Secretariat (also Chair of the 25 th anniversary Celebrations Planning Committee)
3.45 pm-3.55 pm	Vote of Thanks	Mr. Joseph Karangathi, Board Member
3.55 pm-4.00 pm	Closing Prayers	Mrs. Elizabeth K. Makanya, Senior Teacher, St Patrick School.
4.00 pm- 4.30 pm	Networking Tea	Safari Park Hotel
4.30 pm	Guests leave at their own pleasure	

PELUM AT A GLANCE

Who we are

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Association is an indigenous African network currently with 283 Member Organizations (MOs) from 12 African Countries namely; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa, Malawi, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Rwanda. PELUM Association Regional Secretariat is based in Lusaka, Zambia. Each of the countries has a Country Working Group (CWG) comprising member organizations that work with small holder farmers and pastoralist and coordinated by a Country Secretariat (CS). Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network which currently comprises of 57 Member Organizations (MOs). PELUM Kenya works with its Member Organizations to promote ecological land use principles and management practices for improved livelihoods among small scale farmers and pastoralists in Kenya. The members of PELUM Kenya are Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other networks working with small scale farmers. The members of PELUM Kenya are categorized into four networking zones namely Nairobi/Central zone, Rift Valley-Western Zone, Upper Eastern & Northern Kenya zone, Lower Eastern & Coastal zone. The Country secretariat is based in Boma Estate, Kenyatta Road.

PELUM Kenya Vision

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

PELUM Kenya Mission

To promote participatory ecological land use principles and management practices for improved livelihoods among small scale farmers and pastoralists in Kenya.

PELUM Kenya Core Values

1. Commitment to networking and partnership
2. Transparency and Accountability
3. Innovativeness
4. Equity and Justice
5. Gender Sensitivity

PELUM Kenya Strategic Directions

1. Advocacy and Policy Influencing
2. Climate Change Adaptation
3. Agro-enterprise and Market Development
4. Sustainable Natural Resource Management
5. Capacity Enhancement
6. Networking and Collaboration

Principles that Guides PELUM Kenya Network

1. Showcasing the diversity and the huge potential of ecological agricultural practices
2. Enabling learning from experiences and practices of its members and elsewhere
3. Implementing joint activities and programmes where there is potential for significant positive impact
4. Encouraging and supporting innovations across its network
5. Always striving towards human health, soil health, plant health and environment health
6. Advocating for issues in favour of small holder ecological farmers, pastoralists and fisher folks
7. Ensuring that PELUM Kenya is a member-driven network
8. Promoting inclusive processes at all levels as the basis of ownership and environmental sustainability
9. Always being accountable to ourselves and other stakeholders

PELUM KENYA'S CURRENT AND ONGOING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

1. Promoting elum and Networking for Livelihood Improvement (PENELI) 2017 - June 2021 to achieve the following results;

- ✧ Agro-ecological principles and practices adopted by small holder farmers working with PELUM Kenya MOs
- ✧ Enhanced capacity of MOs to mainstream and advocate cross cutting issues at the county, national, regional and international levels
- ✧ Structured markets for small holder farmers established and strengthened for increased incomes
- ✧ Key Natural Resources in the PELUM Kenya zones identified, rehabilitated and conserved
- ✧ Improved seed security among target communities practicing agro ecology

2. Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Africa (2017-2020) to achieve the following;

- ✧ Ecological organic agriculture mainstreamed into the national agricultural policy systems.
- ✧ EOA curricula established and implemented in agriculture institutions at all levels and sectors.
- ✧ Improved extension systems that are responsive farmers needs and demands for information and services in EOA.
- ✧ Increased availability and accessibility of information on EOA for use by stakeholders
- ✧ Improved access to organic products and markets by smallholder farmers and consumers
- ✧ Strengthened partnerships and networks among EOA actors in Eastern Africa.
- ✧ Relevant policies and programmes for promotion of EOA influenced

- ✧ Improved institutional capacity and coordination of EOA initiative actors.

3. Global Green Action Week Project to achieve the following;

- ✧ To create awareness on the importance of indigenous seeds/farmer managed seeds, local vegetables, herbs and spices.
- ✧ To promote and inculcate the culture of community sharing with the aim of sustainably producing and multiplying indigenous/farmers managed seeds
- ✧ To improve interactive networking among Member Organizations (MOs), producers, marketers and consumers.

4. Integrated Water Shed Management for Diverse Farming Enterprises (IWAMA DIFE) Improvement (2020-2021) to achieve the following results:

Increased production of high range of healthy foods

- ✧ Increased production of high range of healthy foods
- ✧ Increase cash income due to increase on-farm enterprises and marketing opportunities
- ✧ Increased protection and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems
- ✧ Increased collaboration with the key stakeholders in water shed management

5. Global Advocacy Programme (GAP) for achieving the following:

- ✧ Policies, plans, regulatory frameworks and programmes that support EOA in Eastern Africa influenced
- ✧ Increased awareness and understanding among policy makers and relevant stakeholders on benefits of EOA
- ✧ Increased engagement of a critical mass of policy makers, technocrats and other relevant stakeholders in dialogues supportive of EOA

- ✧ Survey document on the status of EOA legislation and policies in different countries in Eastern Africa developed (Identify constraints, enabling conditions/levers and opportunities for change)
- ✧ Knowledge of structures and processes in decision making related to policy formulation

6. Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) Project to achieve the following:

- ✧ Knowledge on organic agriculture is gathered, validated and made available.
- ✧ Different locally adapted organic farming practices are disseminated, and household's nutrition is improved
- ✧ Markets and consumption patterns for ecological products are strengthened and stakeholders of the organic agriculture sector are well coordinated and networked

7. Agroecology Anchor Hub Kenya

- ✧ The hub's goal is to enhance ecological agriculture's transformative impacts for smallholder farmers.
- ✧ The hub coordinates training events and undertakes research of relevance to local farming communities using an FRN approach.

8. Grounding Ecological Organic Agriculture in PELUM Kenya Network to achieve the following;

- ✧ Improved sustainable farming practices of smallholder farms in Kenya through enhanced capacity of the PELUM Kenya Member Organizations and PELUM Kenya programme Staff in Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA)
- ✧ Enhanced practical skills on Agro-ecology through a creation of a pool of TOTs AE within the PELUM Kenya network

9. Capacity Development on Agroforestry for Climate Resilience and Rural Development to achieve the following:

- ✧ Enhanced integration of on farm agroforestry practices among smallholder farmers
- ✧ Enhanced capacities of extension agents on agroforestry practices in Kenya

PELUM KENYA AT 25: A HIGHLIGHT OF 25 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **Over 4 million Farmers** - Reached directly with agro ecological practices and principles
2. **Member Organizations** - Grown from 1 in 1995, to 57 in October 2020
3. **Owns Land** - PELUM Kenya has a 1 acre land at Maguguni, Thika East District
4. **Formation of EOAI** - In May 2011, PELUM Kenya led in the formation of the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) and to date PELUM Kenya is one of the two Lead Coordinating Organizations of the EOAI, and is represented at the all levels of EOAI: National Steering Committee; Regional Steering Committee and Continental Steering committee
5. **Current Regional Secretariat** - EOAI for Eastern Africa, and the secretariat for Alliance of Networks in Agroecology Kenya (ANAK)
6. **Strong Relationships and Networks** - PELUM Kenya works closely with the government and other development partners like GIZ and AMBERO and is represented in Several Key National Level Committees such as Climate Smart Multi-Stakeholders Platform and Inter-sectoral forum on Agroecology & Agro-biodiversity (ISFAA) led by the Ministry of Agriculture.
7. **Over 10 Agro ecological demonstration sites** - Established in different regions in Kenya. Some of the practices being showcased include; Agroforestry practices, Permaculture, Grow Bio-Intensive farming, in situ water harvesting technologies, small livestock enterprises, seedbanks, crop diversification including indigenous crops
8. **Over 2.5 million Trees** - PELUM Kenya has planted over 2.5 million trees in the country. PELUM Kenya led a one million tree campaign. Further, over 15 degraded sites across the country have been restored. These include restoration of degraded forests sites in Mau Forest, management of solid waste in Lake Elementaita, restoration of degraded hills such as Epanga valley in western Kenya, Kwamee valley in Machakos and Kipsing Gulley in Isiolo
9. **Over 40 Community Tree Nurseries** - PELUM Kenya has supported its member organizations to establish over 40 community tree nurseries. The tree nurseries aimed to supply the communities with indigenous and agroforestry trees and are spread across Busia, Kakamega, Murang'a, Kiambu and Machakos Counties.
10. **Awarded, Indigenous Food Torch Three Years in a Row** - PELUM Kenya won the Regional PELUM Association Indigenous Food Torch, three times in row: 2005 (Kabwe, Zambia), 2008 (Morogoro, Tanzania) and 2011 (Maseru, Lesotho. The award was issued to PELUM Kenya permanently.
11. **Supported over 10 different value chains:** in enterprise development and marketing. Some of the key value chains include indigenous chicken, organic honey, mangoes, avocado, pepino melon, dairy goat, Galla goats, organic cassava and ground nuts and these are benefitting over 1 Million farmers and pastoralists.
12. **Strengthened MOs Capacities;** PELUM Kenya has strengthened the capacities of its MOs in different identified need areas such as financial management, governance, monitoring and evaluation, report writing, climate change, marketing and Organic Product Certification.
13. **Contribution to Policy and Legislation Processes;** PELUM Kenya has contributed in the development and integration of Agroecology in policies and Acts at Regional, National and County levels – all in favor small hold farmers and pastoralists. Some of these include: The draft Agriculture Policy, the Seed Act 2010, the forest Policy 2020, the Environment policy 2012, the 5 Agriculture commodity bills 2020 and the Biosafety Act 2009.

14. **Funding partners have increased from 1 to 9** - Some of the partners that have walked closely with PELUM Kenya include: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Bread for the World, Act Change Transform (ACT!), Siemempuu, Biovision Africa Trust, Tudor Trust, HIVOS, IDEMS International, NOREC and Both ENDS.
15. **Number of programmes increased from 1 in 2003 to 9 in 2020** - The programmes aim at addressing different issues affecting small scale farmers such as climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation, sustainable agricultural production, agro enterprise development and natural resource management.
16. **Adaptation to Climate Change** - PELUM Kenya has supported adaptation of over 1 million small holder farmers against climate change through initiatives such as enterprise diversification, water conservation, Grow Bio-Intensive agriculture, Kitchen gardening and indigenous knowledge integration in farming
17. **Supported over 1000 pastoralists** - directly in pasture and range land management. The pastoralists have been trained on different elements such as catchment approach; pasture management, water harvesting technologies, land & livestock management and integrating livestock and farming.
18. **Bi-Annual Board Meetings & Annual General Meetings**- PELUM Kenya has consistently held Board meetings (twice per year) and Annual General Meeting, once every year since 2004. It has also maintained a stable and competent board of directors. This has greatly improved on the governance and management of PELUM Kenya and greatly strengthened the operations and systems at PELUM Kenya.
19. **Four functional networking Zones** - PELUM Kenya has initiated 4 functional networking zones in order to strengthen horizontal networking. The zones have zonal coordinators hosted by the Member organizations.
20. **Developed 8 organizational policies** - and these makes PELUM Kenya one of the most active, vibrant and best managed Network. These include but not limited to gender policy, human resource policy, procurement policy, finance policy, risk policy, salary and remuneration policy, HIV and AIDS and board manual.
21. **Supported 34% of PGS certified farmer groups in Kenya** - to achieve organic certification through Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) thus giving them an edge in the organic market sector.
22. **Supported more than 2000 farmers in income generating activities** - PELUM Kenya has contributed to increased incomes among the target group. The organization has supported more than 2000 farmers in income generating activities such as local poultry farming, piggery, cottage industry for healthy juice production like pepino melon juice, peanut butter and honey,
23. **Hosted and nurtured upcoming organizations**- such as Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE) Kenya and Biodiversity and Biosafety Association (BIBA) of Kenya
24. **Collaborations** - Over the years, PELUM Kenya has collaborated with likeminded organizations in the regionally and Nationally such as Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Agriculture Biodiversity Community (ABC), Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), Biovision Africa Trust, Kenya Organic Agriculture Network, World Rural Forum, etc.,
25. **Increased staff from 1 to 21** - These competent staff has expertise in diverse thematic areas and this strengthens the efforts to promote elum

PELUM KENYA COUNTRY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Central and Nairobi Zone

1. Africa IPM Alliance (AIA)
2. Aid link- Ireland
3. Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)
4. CARITAS Nairobi
5. Community Action for Rural Enhancement (CARE), Murang'a
6. Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Program (COSDEP)
7. Grow Bio – Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK)
8. Institute of Culture and Ecology (ICE)
9. Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF)
10. Kenya Organic Agricultural Network (KOAN)
11. Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)
12. Permaculture Research Institute (PRI) Kenya
13. Resources Oriented Development Initiative (RODI - Kenya)
14. Self Help Africa (SHA)
15. Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Program (SACDEP – Kenya)
16. Youth Action for Rural Development (YARD)

B. Upper Eastern/North Eastern Zone

17. Anglican Development Services Mt. Kenya East
18. Caritas Meru
19. Caritas, Catholic Diocese of Nyahururu
20. CEFA-KENYA
21. Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD)
22. FH Kenya
23. Institute for Peace Development and Innovation (IPSIA) Meru
24. Laikipia Permaculture Centre (LPC)
25. Nainyoiye Community Development Organization (NCDO)
26. Pastoralists Community Initiatives and Development Assistance (PACIDA)
27. Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP)

C. Central Rift Valley/ Nyanza/ Western Zone

28. Agriculture Community Empowerment Programme (ACEP)
29. Anglican Development Services Western

(ADSW)

30. Baraka Agricultural College (BAC)
31. Bio – Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)
32. Busia Environmental and Resource Management (BERMA)
33. Community Mobilization Against Desertification (C-MAD)
34. Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Program (CREPP)
35. Development In Gardening (DIG)
36. Maendeleo Endelevu Action Programme (MEAP)
37. Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC)
38. Network for Eco farming in Africa (NECOFA)
39. Seed Savers Network
40. Slow food Convivia Association of Kenya (SFCAK)
41. Support for Tropical Initiatives (STIPA)
42. Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resource Technologies (SMART) Initiatives
43. The mission of Tenwek Hospital Community Health & Development
44. Trans Community Organization (TRANSCOM)
45. Vi Agroforestry (VIAFP)

D. Lower Eastern and Coast Zone

46. Anglican Development Services Eastern
47. Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDII)
48. Christian Impact Mission (CIM)
49. Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP)
50. Dryland Natural Resource Centre (DNRC)
51. Emayian Integrated Development Organization (EIDO)
52. INADES Formation – Kenya (IFK)
53. Katoloni Community Based Organisation
54. Kitui Development Centre (KDC)
55. Neighbors Initiative Alliance (NIA)
56. Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum (TTWF)
57. Utooni Development Organization (UDO)



FOREWORD BY CHAIRPERSON

On behalf of the board of directors, I take this opportunity to congratulate the PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya network on our 25th anniversary.

I am indebted to God for the continued blessings to this great network. As we celebrate this silver Jubilee, the PELUM Kenya Board is happy to note the progressive growth of this network in Kenya from a one-member organization in 1995 to a now 57 Member Organizations spread out in 42 out of 47 Counties; and from the 25 pioneer members in 6 countries (Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia) to the

present 300 members in 12 Countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Eswatini

Even as we celebrate, I strongly believe that PELUM Association network will continue to play a leading role in agroecological principles and practices as has done in the past. This is the right moment in time for all of us to renew our commitment to networking for a greener Africa and respective countries. May God continue to shower the network stakeholders (farmers, pastoralists, fisher folks, Members, funding partners, collaborating partners, the Government) with blessings and strength in order improve the well-being of our beneficiaries (communities and ecosystems). Without the support of all stakeholder, we woul not be celebrating today

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the PELUM Association Regional Board and the PELUM Kenya Board of Directors for their invaluable guidance and directions. I recognize the efforts made by the Chairpersons who preceded me, Mr. Ngugi Mutura, Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri and Mr. Charles Nyakora. These set high standards of governance and the network owes a lot to them. I also laud the efforts of Zachary Makanya and all the PELUM Kenya staff who have selflessly dedicated themselves to the growth and development of the network. I also appreciate the funding partners who have funded and continue to support our work. Indeed in order to take this to the next level; we need to expand the level of support for the Network. I will not forget the member organizations who continue to reach over 2 million in Kenya on day to day basis. You have done well in the last 25 years. I hope your success of the last 25 years will spur you to increase your efforts we go into the next silver jubilee period.

Many of you have been part of our 25 years' journey and your support has enabled us to impact the livelihoods of the small scale farmers. Thank you all.

I would like to thank all those who have sent congratulatory messages, success stories, testimonies which are contained in this publication. We also thank those who have challenged us on what to focus on in future. All these will serve as reminder of our achievements as we enter in the next silver jubilee period.

We all I look forward to seeing a very vibrant and active PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya in the next 25 years. For that to be, we all have to be part of the process. Let us do our best.

Long live PELUM Kenya, Long Live PELUM Association.

Collins Othieno,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Collins Othieno'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Chairperson,
PELUM Kenya Board of Directors**

PELUM KENYA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ms. Anne Nashipae

Regional Chair and Programme Officer, NIA
Vice-chairperson



Mr. Collins Othieno

Executive Director CREPP
Chairperson



Mr. Zachary Makanya

Country - Coordinator/CEO PELUM
SECRETARY



Ms. Annsanto Muthoni

Deputy Manager CEFA
Member



Mr. Karangathi Njoroge

Executive Director MEAP
Member



Eustacea Kiarri

CEO KOAN
Treasurer



Mr. David Mwangi

Director - MHAC
Member



Mr. Sebastian Wambugu

CEO, YARD
Member



Foreword by the Country Coordinator

First and foremost, I thank Almighty God for this far he has brought the PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya network. These have been 25 years of learning, growth, dedication and commitment to improving the livelihoods of small holder farmers in Kenya. Some of us joined at some point and it is important we appreciate that we found it there. So, we have to appreciate those were there before we joined. For without them, could we have found it?

This question reminds me of the story of Apollo 11. This is the spaceship that landed to the moon in 1969. Only two people, led by Commander Neil Armstrong were in Apollo 11 landed in the moon on July 24, 1969. But there was one Engineer who was particularly very happy and proud when he heard that Apollo 11 had landed in the moon. He was the one watching its landing in a televised screen. Thereafter, he organized a party in his house to celebrate its landing. People were very curious and asked him why he was so happy and yet, it is not he who had landed in the moon. His response was: “yes, I have not landed in the moon but that Apollo 11 “has my rivet”. Without my rivet, it could not have landed”. It is this famous engineer who had been tasked to manufacture the rivets that were used to join the metals in Apollo 11. The rivet had a factor of safety of 1,000.

With this, I thank you all for your contribution to the growth of PELUM Kenya and PELUM Association. Despite the former staff not working with PELUM Kenya today, I am happy that some of them have joined us in our celebrations. I warmly welcome them. I also want tell the current staff and the former staff that PELUM Kenya is where it is because they all contributed their “rivets” to its growth. God has blessed PELUM Kenya with a team of honest, dedicated and God fearing staff who also enjoyed and enjoy working with the organization. It is this kind of staff that has propelled PELUM Kenya to where it is.

To end, I have a message for everyone here (member organizations, current and former staff, funding partners, collaborating partners, the government officers, researchers) that PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya needs your “rivet”. I urge you to give it your best “rivets”. I am sure, you will always be proud when you see PELUM Kenya growing stronger and stronger with your “rivet” in it.

This silver jubilee celebration also reminds us that a journey of a thousand miles starts with one step. We started 25 years ago. We have not reached. I am sure when we reflect and see how far we have come and done, you will be encouraged that we are in the right direction. Let us move on, this time being encouraged by the unity of purpose.

Long live PELUM Kenya, Long live PELUM Association.

Zachary Makanya,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Makanya'.

**Country Coordinator / CEO
PELUM Kenya**

CURRENT PELUM KENYA STAFF

STAFF AT SECRETARIAT



Mr. Ndiki Ndung'u
Finance & Administrative Manager



Mr. Zachary Makanya
Country Coordinator/CEO



Ms. Rosinah Mbenya
Programme Operations Manager



Ms. Manei Naanyu
Coordinator - EoA/ Eastern Africa Regional Secretariat



Mr. Jeff Kahuho
Senior Programme Officer
Capacity Enhancement & Networking



Ms. Mary Irungu
Programme Officer, Advocacy & Communication



Mr. Edward Muiruri
Programme Officer, Agro Enterprise & Market Development



Ms. Irene Nyaega
Administrative Officer



Ms. Evelyn Kaumba
Programme Officer, Monitoring & Evaluation



Ms. Moraa Ratemo
Programme officer, Knowledge Hub



Ms. Alice Kariuki
Senior Accountant



Mr. Nehemiah Ndinwa
Accountant



Mr. Roland Mwalugha
Driver/Mechanic



Mr. George Foro
Assistant Driver/Mechanic



Ms. Susan Njoki
Catering Staff



Mr. Michael Muriithi
Security Officer



Mr. Joseph Chokera
Security Officer

STAFF AT ZONES



Mr. Patrick Kihoro
ZNC Nairobi /Central zone



Ms. Sarah Wambui
ZNC upper Eastern & Northern Kenya zone



Mr. Benson Isohe
ZNC Western Zone



Ms. Beth Omae
ZNC Central Rift Valley Zone

THE HISTORY OF PELUM ASSOCIATION – HOW IT ALL STARTED

1. How It All Began

PELUM Association as a network was launched in October 1995. However, the “Courtship” for the conception of PELUM Association started in southern Africa as early as 1991. That’s when most people everyone in the region was talking about the green revolution as the modern way of farming. This is when some people started questioning this mistaken path. Alternatives Agriculture (AA) systems were arising under different names: agroforestry, permaculture, conservation agriculture, holistic management, participatory rural appraisal and so on. Some people from Southern Africa led by Fambidzanai Training Centre, then led by Mr. John Wilson consulted with the Perma-Culture Trust of Botswana led by Russel Clerk came together in December 1991 to design a curriculum that encompassed all of these, a comprehensive curriculum in what we would now call Agroecology.

In the process of doing this we realized that there was a need to go much further than this and do much more. It became apparent that we needed to keep linking all our work. This led to the idea of some kind of network or networking. So a think tank and a steering/task group was put together to take things forward. This group comprised of Dan Mogale (SA), Russel Clarke (Botswana), Rob Sacco (Zimbabwe), Chileshe Chilangwa (Zambia) and later with Ngugi Mutura (Kenya) and Mr. Rwechingura (Tanzania) Over the next three years, 1992, 1993, 1994 and most part of 1995, this Steering Group gradually took things forward, planning the establishment of a regional network whose name became PELUM Association.

In October 1995 representatives from these organizations met in Nyanga District in Zimbabwe to discuss and the agree to the constitution and then all travelled to Harare for the launch of PELUM Association in East and Southern Africa. It was agreed at this launch that the priority should be to establishment of Country Working Groups, made up of members in each country and that each country was to establish a County Working Desk hosted by one of the original founding organizations in each country. The heads of these organizations were also in the PELUM Association Regional Board.

2. Chronology Of Events

The following is the chronology of events that led to the formation of PELUM Association:

1. April 1991 – A meeting held between the Fambidzanai Training Centre and Perma-culture Trust of Botswana to share experience and find ways of enhancing their training programmes. The meeting was held at FTC, Harare
2. December 1991 – A workshop was held at Hunyani Hills Hotel, Harare and had over 50 participants from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. This workshop defined some of the parameters and the broad outline of the programme to be covered in ecological land use management.
3. November 1992 – A consultative meeting was held at Lake Chivero from which a draft document was developed on Ecological Land Use Management with participatory techniques in the broad curriculum. This is where Regional Association for Peasant Production (RAPP), the predecessor of PELUM was born.
4. January 1993 – A consultative meeting was held in Harare. In this meeting the ideas about the regional training were expounded.
5. June 1993 – A meeting of the Steering Committee at Ngezi National Park. In this meeting the participants proposed the name of the new association, “Training Association for Participatory Ecology Land Use Management in East and Southern Africa (TAPELUMESA)

It is now mutually agreed that this process was rolling out in the Southern Africa and led by Mr. John Wilson. It is noted that in Eastern Africa, the thinking started much earlier in 1982 / 1983 at Manor House Agriculture Centre, Meru, organized by Plan International (1987), KIOF (1988), SACDEP 1 Workshop in 1991 and SACDEP Workshop in 2 in 1993. It is during this very successful workshop that Mr. Mutura met Mr. John Wilson and thereafter, the two had two week-long tour of the then alternative Agriculture Institutions in Kenya. During their

six days of travel, they had lengthy discussions, arguments, disagreements and also meeting of converging minds. It is at this point in time when the idea for an Africa born, bred and managed network of indigenous organizations came out strongly. Mr. Mutura shared with Mr. John Wilson of his frustrations in working with international networks whose agenda were driven from America, Europe, and Asia. John also shared of the idea to start a network for Southern Africa and that its think-process had started in 1991. In the end, it was agreed that Eastern Africa also join the network of the Southern Africa.

6. January 1994 - The first bond project memorandum for the establishment of TAPELUMESA. This was a detailed overview of TAPELUMESA and includes the advertisement for the positions at the PELUM Regional Desk.
7. February 1995 - A workshop was held at WITS Rural Facility in Eastern Transvaal, South Africa. The meeting thrashed the many pending issues and come up with PELUM Association and set the duties for the launch of PELUM Association
8. October 1995 - PELUM Association is officially launched.

3. The People Credited To The Formation And Establishment Of Pelum Association In The Region.

People credited have to contributed ideas and or resources include the following: John Wilson, Richard Librock, Joy Chidavaenzi, Russel Clarke, Gary Sawdon, Don Mogale, Mutizwa Mkute, Cleophas Rwenca, Dan Mogale (SA), Ngugi Mutura, Rob Sacco, Fred Kapelo, Chileshe Chilangwa, Mr. Rwechingura, Loes Groenendijk, Francis Chirunga, Lewi Mudzvamuse, Sibonjile Hood, John Turner, Suleiman Oman, Patricia Hajabakiga, Tom Van Rensburg, Lijakine Moteko, Abel Mobei, Bridget O' Connor, Hellen Vusassin, Irene Dube, Sussana Kuhudzai, Khetiwe Moya, Yve Mache, Eliud Ngunjiri and Anne Brazia.

WHY PELUM ASSOCIATION WAS STARTED

As told by Zachary Makanya, Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya

The answer was in the words of Mr. Ngugi Mutura (below), the Executive Director of SACDEP Kenya and one of those who were at the PELUM Association's delivery table.

He said it as a matter of fact in his slow, well measured and modulated voice and hence he was very convincing. The audiences were staff from PELUM Kenya Country Secretariat and the visiting PELUM Swaziland Group. As he said these words, I could see that we all were hanging on his very words. He may have told us this in the past, but this time, it is as if we were hearing them for the first time.

“

“The members decided to form a network that would help them (the members) achieve and do more that they would if working on their own”. He added “We wanted a network that would add value to the work of the members”

”

He ended his speech in form of a challenge to all those listening “so as you continue working in PELUM country Secretariats, always ask yourselves: are you working to help the PELUM members to do more than they can do on their own? What is the added value that PELUM Association is bringing to the PELUM Kenya members? As you work, try to get the answers for these questions from PELUM Kenya members and the communities. These should know since they are end-beneficiaries of networking efforts by the PELUM Country Secretariats”

We all become grim faced and you could see it in the eyes of all those listening. The words motivated us and from thereon, we were all ready and willing to work towards making the dream of the members come true.



Mr. Mutura listening and interacting with small scale organic producers.

CONGRATULATORY AND GOODWILL MESSAGES FROM STAKEHOLDERS



CONGRATULATORY AND GOODWILL MESSAGES FROM STAKEHOLDERS

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Mr. Ngugi Mutura, Executive Director, SACDEP – Kenya

PELUM Association: The Seed, Germination and a Dozen Years of Watering



It was like the Mustard Seed, so small, then grows into a giant tree. However, the seed was not the main drive to getting it into the soil. It was the fire in the belly to tackle matters that were ailing small

holder farming families' livelihoods in the East and Southern Africa Region. The realization that International Organizations were not factually addressing the challenges that faced the African land use. With African Indigenous Organizations themselves struggling to make impact in the region, lack of a homegrown network of land-use based institutions had to be tackled with "Gloves off".

The year was 1994; SACDEP was only two years old. The big argument over whether the country needed an alternative type of low-cost, chemical free agriculture was loud, confusing and emotional. Kenya Government was suspicious of what NGOs were telling the farmers, traders and researchers.

Having worked for the Government for nine years, I knew it was a matter time before other forms of destructive ideas would be officially banned. I had to take urgent action to save what I believed was a good future approach to land use, agriculture and livelihood for small and medium holder agriculture.

I led the then young SACDEP in organizing a National Conference in Conventional versus Sustainable Agriculture in September 1994. With scarcity of professionals with clarity of the conflicting ideas, terms and actual differences, I had to get a capable moderator of the five-day deliberations. Fiona Percy of then PLAN International, proposed John Wilson of Zimbabwe.

The conference was a great success. I then took

John for a week-long tour of the then Alternative Agriculture Institutions in Kenya. During our six-day travel, the two of us had lengthy discussions, arguments, disagreements and meeting of minds. The idea of an African born and bred network of indigenous Organizations could not go away.

I discussed with John my frustrations in working with International Networks originated by Americas, Europe and Asian farmers, he told me of the steps already taken to create a Network for Southern Africa.

In the end, we agreed that East Africa should join in. This way, African Governments in the region would begin listening to alternative approaches to Agriculture.

In February 1995 I travelled to Harare for a planning meeting on the now conceived Network. Since the initiative had no money, I stayed in Johns' house. Using a hired public van (Matatu) we travelled to Kruger National Park in South Africa for an eight-day consultative, planning, consensus and strategy brainstorm. Travelling from Harare to the South we had to go through Masvingo, Beitbridge and into South Africa. The South Africans were in the International news, going through what was known as Taxi wars, the conflicting groups were armed and violent.

Fearing that our Taxi van would be confused for a siding opponent gang, we covered our matatu with a wide banner written 'Ecological Agriculture Association'. Land issues are emotive. So, we had to hide on our banner, the words "Land use". Having left Harare at 5am, we were finally, in a small guest house in the middle of Kruger National Park. The Team comprised of John Wilson, Rob Sacco (Zimbabwe), Dan Mogale (South Africa), Mr. Russel Clarke (Botswana), Richard Librock (support, Botswana / Zimbabwe), Mr. Rwechingura (Tanzania) and Ngugi Mutura (Kenya). A very efficient Zimbabwean lady, Zvisinei gave us wonderful rapporteur back up.

Eight days later, as we drove back to Harare, we had a Network called PELUM Association. The products attained were a Name, Core values,

Policies, Structures, Secretariat, Funding Strategies and Geographical Focus. Critically, we had a 10- year dummy strategic plan and a draft constitution. The PELUM Regional (and Country) Association was born. The hard part was behind us.

One of the key structures that we made was that all Country Desks had to be hosted by a member. Naturally, SACDEP had the responsibility of setting up and running the Kenyan Desk for the subsequent indefinite years.

In October 1995, we met in Zimbabwe for a network building seminar in Nyanga District at the East highlands. This time, we brought in about 30 Institutions. From Kenya, I led six Organizations.

As we excitedly planned for the launch, a new challenge emerged; The Constitution had not been endorsed by the member Countries. Richard Librock was to travel to all the nine countries to have the constitution endorsed. As we signed the original document ranked by the Kenyan member representatives, history was in the making.

Seven Member Organizations represented Kenya in May 1995, during the Association's official launch. By then I had got to interest Uganda through Mr. Fred Kafaro. The signing was done in a small training centre outside Harare and was officiated by the then Assistant Minister for Agriculture. The function took two days, at the end of which SACDEP offered to host the 1st Bi-annual General Meeting in 1997. In September 1997, during the historic Elnino Floods in Kenya, the equally historic General Meeting was held in Nairobi's Ngong Hills Hotel. 39 participants from nine countries attended the six-day event which was heavily covered by the Kenyan press. PELUM Association had for the 1st time got the attention of the Kenyan Public.

The BGM was successfully steered by John Wilson, Rob Sacco and I as the host. A substantive first Regional Board was elected with Russel Mushanga (Zambia) and Ngugi Mutura (Kenya) as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. A week later, SACDEP hosted the first full Board meeting in Thika.

The policy of PELUM as a regional Association was for the secretariats to be hosted by a member.

The idea was implemented in order to focus finances to programmes, while reducing overhead

costs. Further, to enable the Association adopt a culture of more people's development work and less talk shops.

SACDEP hosted the nascent Association for seven years. Meanwhile funding for PELUM work was obtained from funders that included Miserior, Ford Foundation, Trocare, Canadian Embassy, GTS, Gaia Foundation, among others. Of course before this funding and in between resources came from SACDEP's budgets.

By 2001, substantial funds were won from PACT. The Country working Group (CWG) met in Nakuru and resolved to have the Country Desk separated from SACDEP and obtained some level of semi autonomy. SACDEP was however given the responsibility of mentoring, overseeing and guiding the desk. Mr. Zachary Makanya had then worked for SACDEP for two years, handling the PELUM Desk within SACDEP. Therefore, he was the most ideal person to move into the newly formulated Desk. He packed all the files and moved into a separate office block. SACDEP then oversaw the process for an additional four years.

Meanwhile, the Association's membership had grown from 1 to 14 institutions. Projects were both Country and Regional. A newsletter called 'Ground Up' kept the regional communication strong. More Countries had joined, in including Lesotho, Malawi, and Rwanda.

As a Regional Board member, I tried unsuccessfully to convince the Board to accept Ethiopia and Eritrea. They were debated out for geographical locations. We considered Somalia and Sudan. Somalia had an unstable Government, but we got South Sudan as participants in the Regional Project known as 'Conflict Resolution through Food and Resources Security'.

In conclusion, the formative years of the Association were founded from a huge amount of self-sacrifice, commitment, passion and clear vision by the individual persons.

These critical foundation years will forever have their story told. Certain names will be difficult to leave out in the list to be once placed in the Hall of Honor. They will be John Wilson, Rob Sacco, (Zimbabwe), Mutizwa Mukute, Richard Librock, Russel Clarke Botswana, Dan Mogale (S.A), Mr. Rwechingura, Father Marché (Tanzania), Ms. Linga Mihowa (Malawi) Ms. Molly Letela (Lesotho), Russel Mushanga, Parkie Mbozi (Zambia), Fred Kafeero, Monika Kipiriri, Mary Jo Kaknida

(Uganda) and John Bideri (Rwanda).

In Kenya, names in formative years will always be Fred Wafula, Charles Onyango, Eliud Ngunjiri, Zachary Makanya, Monica Mwangi and of course, me.

Finally, as we celebrate the 25 years of the subsistence growth and impact of PELUM in Kenya and the region, it is hoped that the vision of the Founder Fathers and Mothers will continue inspiring current and future governance and staff segments.

This way, Association's original purpose, objectives and goals will continue to achieve the desired impact on the farming communities of the region and Africa as a whole.

John Wilson, Strategic Advisor



25 years ago, PELUM Kenya, like the sister PELUM organizations across East and Southern Africa, began its journey. At that time the chemical green revolution approach was seen to be the modern and appropriate way of farming for Kenya, and

other countries in the region. Kenya was one of the countries which had gone quite far down the 'chemical' farming route. The short-term results were seductive.

PELUM Kenya was a then a handful of organizations in the country, working with farmers, who knew that the green revolution route was the wrong one for a number of reasons. They realized that they would not get far by working on their own. PELUM Kenya has now more than 50 members. I've watched it grow and witnessed how it has become stronger, year by year. It is one of the leading PELUM country working groups in the region, a fine example of networking. I therefore, highly congratulate PELUM-Kenya members and Mr. Zachary Makanya for the work you have done.

The first 25 years of PELUM Kenya were a period of establishment and growing roots around the country, networking and learning from each other. You've done that very well.

It is now time to be ambitious and bold, so that in

your grandchildren's time, the streams and rivers of Kenya will run with clean, unpolluted water; the best indicator of healthy landscapes.

Happy 25th Anniversary PELUM Kenya!

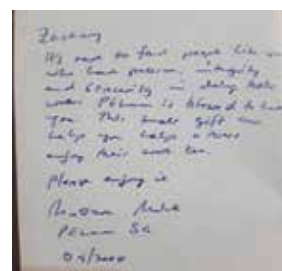
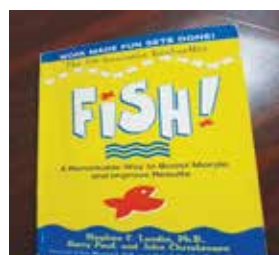
Dr. Mutizwa Mkute Former Secretary General- PELUM Association



The enduring growth, development and impact of any organization are always worth celebrating. But there is another reason for celebrating PELUM Association today: for being a home-grown, dynamic and leading facilitator of

participatory ecological land use management in Africa

As I look back now, 16 years after buying Mr Zachary Makanya (then and now the Country Coordinator PELUM Kenya), the above booklet and writing the above message of encouragement to him in its inner cover, I feel compelled to congratulate and salute him and indeed **all the women and men** whose ideas, energy, efforts, zeal, sacrifices and love have enabled PELUM Association to contribute to the agroecology agenda in Africa. It is remarkable that in this era of climate change, the ideas around *Ecological Land Use Management* (ELUM) have stood the test of time over the last 25 years and they still dovetail and resonate well in the agro-ecological agenda which we are all promoting today. The Founders of PELUM Association were indeed giraffe-like and they will forever remain respected.



I urge all to support and keep this African dream vision of promoting ELUM strong and focused. Long live PELUM Association!

PELUM KENYA BOARD MEMBERS

Collins Ochieng' Chairperson, Board of Directors - PELUM Kenya



It is my pleasure to congratulate PELUM Kenya member organizations and the farmers they work with, the secretariat, all the partners of this great network and my fellow directors as the network marks its 25th anniversary.

I also wish to acknowledge and appreciate Mr. Ngugi Mutura of SACDEP Kenya and all the founders of this great network, the previous directors of the network like Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri and Mr. Charles Nyakora for laying the foundation that has propelled the network to its current enviable status.

During these solid years, the network has not only strengthened all its member organizations through capacity building on key areas like resource mobilization, governance and institutional systems and procedures, but has also exposed their farmers to appropriate agro ecological technologies and practices.

The network has also created forums and platforms for sharing best practices, innovations, ideas, knowledge and expertise, thereby enhancing peer learning among both the member organizations and farmers in theory and practically.

Over the last 25 years, PELUM Kenya has laid the foundation for sustainable agriculture by sharpening stakeholders; understanding on the different approaches to it and developing principles that guide the practice. The member organizations that have benefited through capacity enhancement, have improved the livelihoods of many small holder farmers in Kenya through increased production of organic produce.

Last but not least, I wish to appreciate Mr. Zachary Makanya for steering the PELUM Kenya ship during these twenty five years in which we have witnessed growth from every front of the network despite the challenges that have always emerged.

Best wishes to every member and associate of the PELUM Kenya family as it marks this remarkable milestone.

Ms. Anne Nashipae, Vice-Chairperson- PELUM Kenya; Representing Lower Eastern/Coast Zone



PELUM Kenya has stood all odds in its journey to where it is at the moment. The support to small scale farmers and pastoralists cannot be ignored and this has come very strongly in our interaction with the communities. The Network

has 57 member organizations, making it one of the strongest in the region. In the background of dedicated and strong staff, PELUM Kenya has participated and influenced key policies in agriculture, in favor of small scale farmers in the region. Through collaboration and partnerships, we have seen expansion in organic food markets in the country. As we celebrate our 25 years of existence more effort is still required in strengthening member organizations, and strengthening the voice of farmers in addressing policy gaps in area of climate change and agro ecology. There is need to continue lobbying and influencing governments to enact policies in favor of farmers.

Eustace Kiarii, Board Treasurer- PELUM Kenya; Representing Nairobi, Zone



I wish to congratulate PELUM Members and the board for guiding and steering the organization this far. Special congratulations to the secretariat staff led by the CEO, Mr. Zachary Makanya for their dedication and commitment to run the day to day activities that have gained the much deserved recognition and fame. It's time to look back and note the successes made in the last 25 years. The road to success is usually bumpy and for PELUM Kenya to be where it is, numerous challenges have been faced. With equal measure, it's time to note down the failures and missed opportunities so that we can learn from them. As we move forward, we encourage members, the board and the secretariat to work together, and support each other so that more successes can be achieved in the future and that more communities can benefit from the work of PELUM Kenya.

Happy 25th Anniversary and we wish you all the success for many more years to come!

Karangathi Njoroge, Board Member- PELUM Kenya; Representing Central Rift Zone



I wish to congratulate the PELUM Kenya's vision carrier for accepting to share the vision he had. The pioneers of PELUM Kenya who bought the vision and accepted to nurture the same, the initial, past and current board of directors that took the trouble of shouldering the burden of establishing the means to realize the vision as well as the management and staff of PELUM Kenya who tirelessly work towards realization of the PELUM Kenya's mission and objectives. In addition, member organizations (MOs) that, jointly with the staff collaborate in implementing activities that have led to PELUM Kenya's achievements and existence for the last 25 years. The achievement is as a result of hard labour, commitment, passion for change, self and collective determination. May the same spirit and strength be sustained in the next jubilee phase and beyond! PELUM Kenya's Silver Jubilee is an opportunity to appreciate the founder members who envisioned and advanced their dream to reality. It is an opportunity to acknowledge that the long lasting achievements are the results of combined efforts of every individual.

As a new PELUMITE on board, I am happy to be part for PELUM Kenya's success.

David Mwangi, Board Member- PELUM Kenya; Representing Western Kenya



Congratulations PELUM Kenya in your 25th anniversary. We are sure you have worked hard through the years, for this accomplishment. Your talents and efforts have helped our success. We take pride in your accomplishment and commitment to excellence. The achievement of an organization is a result of the combined efforts of every individual. As Western Kenya Member organization we have benefited, in many ways, through this network. Through many projects in this region, impact has been felt, not only to our community but across the borders. Happy 25th Anniversary to the PELUM Kenya family.

Annsanto Muthoni, Board Member- PELUM Kenya; Representing Upper Eastern/ Northern Kenya zone



I take this opportunity to congratulate PELUM Kenya on their silver jubilee celebrations. I am proud to be part of PELUM Kenya family. Congratulations form Upper Eastern/Northern Kenya zone.

Sebastian Wambugu, Board Member- PELUM Kenya; Representing Central Zone



I am delighted to be part of this PELUM Kenya 25th anniversary celebrations. I congratulate all staff, fellow board members for the milestones made so far. I look forward to more impact in the coming years. Hongera PELUM Kenya

Janet Mumo, Immediate Former Vice chairperson- PELUM Kenya; Representing Lower Eastern/Coast Zone



PELUM Kenya has been the best network in our organization and community at large. As you go on to commit yourself to uphold the values and vision of the organization, we won't stop appreciating PELUM Kenya for the good work. Happy 25th Anniversary PELUM Kenya. We are proud to be associated with you.

Paul Karanja, Immediate former Treasurer- PELUM Kenya; Representing Nairobi zone



I extend heartiest congratulations to the entire PELUM Network as you celebrate 25 years of success. You have been on the top of the list for serving your members and the community with your selfless services. You have achieved tremendous growth and have built eminent goodwill. PELUM Kenya, with a Secretariat endowed with brilliant team of dedicated staff and a friendly work environment has always achieved impactful results. Working with you as Program Manager in SACDEP and as a PELUM Board Member has been a real honor. You have always kept Member Organizations' satisfaction as your priority. I wish you the best results for the future

CURRENT PELUM KENYA STAFF

My 18-Year Walk with PELUM Kenya; A Journey of Ups, Downs, Lessons and Gratitude

By Mr. Zachary Makanya – Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya



As we celebrate PELUM Association's 25 years of existence, we must thank God, for it is He, and He alone who has favored PELUM Association. People may talk about me and all the efforts that I have put for the success of PELUM Kenya. There is no doubt that I have put a lot of effort while working at PELUM Kenya over the last 18 years. However, we must all recognize that it is not an individual's effort but the efforts of very many people, that has brought PELUM Kenya this far. Indeed, I attribute the successes at PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya to numerous people and it is them we all should give a bow and hat's-off salute.

The first category is the men and women whose thoughts seeded the idea of starting PELUM Association. On the lead here is Mr. Ngugi Mutura and Mr. John Wilson. In another section of this booklet, these two have already told in details, how and the way PELUM Association was started. I also know the role they played in the formation of PELUM Association and hence in my work with PELUM Kenya I have deliberately kept close to them for I really believe they have the "True North" Compass direction on why PELUM Association was started, and the direction it should be heading to. They are also the best to tell us whether the PELUM Association we have now has continued to meet the expectations of the Founding People and the current growing membership.

My story with PELUM Kenya begun with a strange question from Mr. Mutura in May 1998: "Mr. Makanya, what are you doing in Tharaka?" He asked this while we were taking dinner one evening in Marimanti. He had come to Tharaka to present the findings of an evaluation he was carrying out for the Farmers Project which was being implemented by the then ITDG (now Practical Action). That time I was working with the ITDG supervising a team of three data enumerators in a research study of the Agriculture Biodiversity Conservation (ABC). This study was

carried out in three countries; Kenya (Tharaka sub-District), Zimbabwe (Chivi District) and Peru. The study was led by two lead researchers, Mr. Patrick Mulvany and Ms. Lucy Mathenge.

I found Mr. Mutura's question strange for he could already see that I was working with ITDG. I reminded him what he already knew; that I was working for ITDG's ABC Project. Without much elaboration, he asked me to visit him at SACDEP so that we could talk. He hinted there could be an interview but was not explicit what it was about. He then gave me the day, date and time. The man who told me more about SACDEP and Mr. Mutura was the late Zachary Ithai who was an officer from Ministry of Agriculture working in Taita Taveta. He spoke highly of Mr. Mutura. On the material day, I found an on-going interview process. I participated, did well, and was offered the job. However since the research study was ongoing, I decided not to leave the research project in disarray so I politely declined the offer. It was also on day that I met Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri and Ms. Mary Nyambura whose last words to this day still ring in my mind: "if they give you the job please take it up". He was referring to a job-offer talk we were to have later in the evening with Mr. Mutura and Mr. Ngunjiri at the famous Chania Tourists Hotel.

In January 2000, the ABC project was winding up and when I met Mr. Mutura in its final validation meeting in Nairobi, he once more, invited me to SACDEP for a another talk. When I went, he offered me a job as a department Manager of Scheduled Courses. It is in this department that PELUM Association's Country desk was being coordinated from. This is what Mr. Ngunjiri famously called it "one leg at SACDEP and the other leg at PELUM Kenya". I worked for two years, 2000 and 2001 and really struggled but was not very successful.

People may think that I believed in the vision and mission of PELUM Kenya from the very beginning. But this is far from the truth. My main intention was to work very hard and fend for my then young family. I was not sure why, and did not care why the network had been formed and what the

then 16 Member organizations expected from the PELUM Association network. By then the PELUM Regional Secretariat was very strong and used to send a lot of emails to Mr. Mutura. I recall the emails would all be printed and put in a heap and put at a corner on Mr. Mutura's huge desk. He would then read, and mark them for me with specific actions to be taken. I would then draft the responses, by hand writing and hand them over to the SACDEP's receptionist who would type them and I would give the responses to Mr. Mutura for his famous thorough scrutiny which came with very many "reds". I made the corrections and it was only after this I would send back the email responses all signed by him. With time, the communications from PELUM Kenya improved so much and the number of emails also increased. I must confess that it was Mr. Mutura who slowly made me understand what PELUM Association was all about. To this day, I have made him my reference and with his open day policy, he has really supported me.

Slowly, the vision and mission of PELUM Association began to become clear to me. By his time, I had also participated in several of the famous 10-day PELUM Regional Workshops, one on seed security and the other on monitoring and evaluation. At that time, PELUM Association was very strong in the Southern Africa and particularly in Zimbabwe and Zambia. Then the spirit of PELUM Association rotated around the PELUM Regional Secretariat then based in Mt. Pleasant, Harare in Zimbabwe. So strong was the Regional Secretariat that my first proposal for PELUM Kenya was to the then PELUM Association Secretary General, Mr. Wisdom Mutizwa Mkute. Mr. Mkute wrote me a very polite email saying that the PELUM Regional Secretariat, that the PELUM Country Secretariats were also looking for funds.

By this time, it became clear to me that I could not manage the two responsibilities and in November 2001, I opted to resign from SACDEP Kenya. I must also confess that I resigned without knowing where I was going.

In early January 2000, a discussion ensued initiated by the late JB Kangethe, Mr. Mutura and Mr. Ngunjiri and this culminated in the PELUM Kenya Board deciding to give me an opportunity to work for PELUM Kenya on full-time basis. Due to the shortage of funds and the low salary I was offered, the board asked me to work for two days per week and use the rest of days to eke out a living to support my family. I worked for

about 4 months, until a real breakthrough came when PELUM Kenya was given a 3-year Grant of Kshs 18M by PACT-Kenya. Huge credit therefore goes to Mr. Mutura, the Executive Director of SACDEP who had taken time to respond to a call for proposal by PACT. It must be noted that even before this grant, Mr. Mutura had successfully fundraised for PELUM Kenya and gotten funds to organize and hold several workshops like the Alternative Agriculture (AA) and the Holistic Land and Livestock Management. All this time, PELUM Kenya relied on SACDEP 100% for its operations. It is very difficult to explain or for people to understand how SACDEP Kenya supported PELUM Kenya. All the present finance management documents of PELUM Kenya are a complete replica of those at SACDEP Kenya. Even when the funds for PACT came, PELUM Kenya had no functional governance and management system and PACT demanded that SACDEP Kenya should receive and manage the PELUM Kenya's project funds.

While working at SACDEP Kenya and PELUM Kenya, Mr. Mutura's support has always been first class. I would easily rate Mr. Mutura as one of the single individuals who has had a big influence on my working life at PELUM Kenya. I also worked very closely with the SACDEP Management Team members: Ms. Mary Kamau, Mr. Paul Kamau, Ms. Polly Wachira just to mention but a few. PELUM Kenya owes a lot to these individuals who worked and supported the PELUM Kenya Team during the 14 years when SACDEP Kenya hosted PELUM Kenya Country Secretariat.

Another person who inspired me during those early days was Mr. Mutizwa Mkute who, when we met, he gave me a book as a gift "FISH - a remarkable to boost and improve Results" and he wrote a message in its inner cover: "Zachary, it is rare to find people like you who have passion, integrity and sincerity in doing their work. PELUM is blessed to have you. This small gift can help you help others enjoy their work too. Please enjoy it, Mutizwa Mkute, PELUM SG, September / 2004". I find this message very inspiring to this day!

Another person who greatly influenced the way I have worked at PELUM Kenya was Prof. Ruffi Maccagba from the US. I met him while working for Food for the Hungry International and he had planned to give the FHI Managers in Marsabit a 3-hour talk on "Effective Management". However, he came late from a community field visit and he had only 30 minutes before taking his flight

back to Nairobi. He told us because of the short time left, he will not refer to his notes on effective management but he would reveal to us three management practices he always applied in his life and that if we too used them, we would be great managers. The three good management practices are:

1. Work in one and half year in one year.
2. Every evening develop a do-list for the next day, review it at the end of the day and tick what you do and transfer what you have not done to the next day.
3. Before you do any task, find out its importance and the urgency. There are 4 possible options:
 - a. Important and urgent
 - b. Important and not urgent
 - c. Not important but urgent
 - d. Not important and not urgent.

He advised us never to do any item in category C and D unless when we are done all the items in with category A and B. He even wondered why anyone would do tasks that are not important.

Another person who helped me change my management style has been Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri, the Executive Director at RODI Kenya. He taught me that everyone had something to offer and further advised me on the value of appreciating other people and building the esteem of those who worked with me. He gave me the marriage analogy: that if one married a wife, he would soon discover that the wife has many weaknesses and if one divorced her because of the weaknesses and married another wife, one would discover the even the new wife had her own weaknesses and hence one would keep on divorcing and marrying. He concluded by telling me that no one was perfect and the best thing is to look for positives in people and not for their weaknesses. It is after this sagely advice that I became more patient with PELUM Kenya staff and started to get the best out of all the people around me. Then I also remembered the famous quote: "A good leader would make use of the strength of his or her staff and make their weaknesses irrelevant". It is not easy to keep to this high calling but it has made me a better leader of people.

I am also lucky to have worked with great Chairpersons and respective Board Members of the PELUM Kenya. These great leaders have fully trusted the PELUM Kenya Management Team under my leadership and have given us adequate space to operate while at the same time offering

the prerequisite advisory services and support to make us become more focused in our work.

PELUM Kenya is also lucky to be surrounded by funding partners who always accompany us and are always eager to build us to increase the impact of our work on the ground. I have no doubt that it is this great trust they have on PELUM Kenya staff that greatly inspires and motivates us to work so hard in order to meet deadlines and ensure excellency without compromise.

I am also lucky to have a wife who is always there for me: welcoming, supportive, encouraging, prays for me, for my colleagues and for PELUM work. I attribute the success I have had at PELUM Kenya to her huge support in the background.

Last and not least, God has blessed PELUM Kenya with a team of honest, dedicated and God fearing professional staff who also enjoy working with the organization. With this kind of staff, the organization is poised to grow to higher realms of organizational development.

Ndiki Ndung'u, Finance and Administrative Manager- PELUM Kenya



I joined PELUM Kenya in August 2006 as a finance intern and was confirmed as a full-time employee on 13th November 2006, as a Finance and Administrative Assistant. 14 years later, I am the organization's Finance and Administrative Manager. The Institution has provided a platform for career growth of staff like myself from low to high positions. I have seen the institution grow from six members of staff when I joined to the current 21; from a yearly budget of Ksh20 million in 2006 to Ksh90 million today, from very weak accounting systems and bouncing cheques to strong financial systems, policies and procedures that others learn from. PELUM Kenya, through the strong leadership of the country Coordinator, Mr. Zachary Makanya, has truly embraced the motto "Forward ever, Backward never".

From my perspective, PELUM Kenya draws its strength from its history and its roots. Wangari Maathai once said "A tree has roots in the soil yet reaches to the sky. It tells us that in order to aspire we need to be grounded and that no matter how high we go it is from our roots that we draw sustenance." The 25-year anniversary, is a commemoration of the humble beginnings that have been supporting PELUM Kenya to

reach greater heights.

In a special way, I acknowledge former members of staff Monica Chege, Stephen Karanja, Caroline Mukeku, Pauline Kimani and Tom Kibet who in the many formative years played a role in the strengthening of the finance department.

VIVA PELUM Kenya on this Silver Jubilee

Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, Programme Operations Manager- PELUM Kenya



I joined PELUM Kenya in March 2015 as a Programme Officer-Research, Information Management and Marketing. The mission of this great network has made PELUM Kenya, an association I enjoy working for, as it fulfils my passion for environmental management and community development. I am motivated by the realization that I contribute to improved livelihoods of the small scale farmers who make a large percentage of the agriculture sector and the population at large. The joy of empowering small scale farmers, while at the same time contributing to environmental conservation is to me, such a great motivation.

As the current Programme Operations Manager, I have been noticing keenly, the increasing number of programmes which have great impact on the Member Organizations and eventually, the small scale farmers. PELUM Kenya network has created a platform to enhance up scaling and replication of best practices while at the same time enhancing lobby and advocacy work. The organization has continued to be recognized as a key leader in the Agroecology auspices with new programmes such as the KCOA project, the Agroecology Anchor Hub project, the Youth Knowledge Exchange project, among others.

As the network celebrates its 25th anniversary, I take this opportunity to appreciate its founders for their role in its formation. I recognize SACDEP Kenya's role in nurturing the PELUM Kenya network. I also recognize all the 57 PELUM Kenya Member Organizations for their commitment to networking for a greener Kenya. Special recognition to PELUM Kenya's Country Coordinator Mr. Zachary Makanya for his tireless efforts in spearheading this network to such an excellent level.

I wish PELUM Kenya all the best and may this anniversary mark the beginning of a new level of performance and excellence.

Congratulations PELUM Kenya network. May God bless you.

Jeff Kahuho, Senior Programme Officer- Capacity Enhancement and Networking- PELUM Kenya



Having Joined PELUM Kenya in the year 2004 as in Intern my first encounter with the Country Working Group Members was on 23rd April 2004 at Water Buck Hotel Nakuru. I travelled in the company of Mr. Zachary Makanya, Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri (RODI) and Pernilla Malmer from SSNC (Swedish Society for Nature Conservation).

It was during this meeting that Food for the Hungry International (FHI) joined PELUM Family. This was also the day that Pernilla Malmer witnessed the members' meeting and participation on issues discussed and humbly embraced networking as a key platform for information sharing and learning. The roots for the relationship between PELUM Kenya and SSNC was initiated on this day and has kept on growing strong to date. I salute SSNC for walking with PELUM Kenya from a membership of 18 in 2004 to the current Member of 57 strong Members. Of course there are some members who have fallen out on the way.

It is networking that has made PELUM Kenya family to be what we are celebrating today, and I am glad and honored to be part of the process. HIVOs also joined and SUSALI Project was born. Between the year 2004-2005, we were only three members of staff; Monica, Zachary and I. We were always bee-busy. All of us worked as implementing officers, secretaries, administration officers, messengers and the Acting Country Desk Officer when Zachary was away. This was just before we were joined by Maryleen, Treazah, Ann and Ndiki.

In 2010, I was one of the 21 Participants at a training on Organic Farming, facilitated by Mashav. During one of the several meetings we held at the Israel Embassy, Zachary and I met the then Ambassador. He told us, "Kenya is a country rich with resources yet you are claiming to be poor, wait till you go to Israel and witness how blessed your country is," True to his word we are such a blessed country with vast land, significant rainfall, good weather, rich soil and human resource

that Israel does not have, yet, it is one of the world's best economies. All we need to do is capacity building and mobilize resources.

We have progressed this far and I am just amazed and proud to be part of the success that we are celebrating today. May God bless Mr. Zachary, and the whole PELUM Kenya family abundantly. Happy PELUM Kenya 25 Years Anniversary,

Ms. Alice Kariuki, Senior Accountant- PELUM Kenya



Happy anniversary PELUM-Kenya!

It's a great honor to be part of this milestone and am proud to be part of this fabulous team. I am particularly proud of the increased transparency and accountability in the network. This would not have been possible without collaborations with our partners.

I believe the life line of every organization is its finances. Without proper management of resources an organization cannot thrive. As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we appreciate our small beginnings, which without doubt had a lot of challenges. These challenges formed the foundation which we are currently standing as a network.

I thank our partners who have continually entrusted us with improving livelihoods of communities. This would not have been possible without their support.

I also thank our board members for their continued trust in us and leading us so well.

Thank you to our leadership, led by our CEO Mr. Zachary Makanya who has continually encouraged us to be resilient and excellent in our work. Over the years the success of PELUM Kenya would not be possible if we didn't have a CEO like him.

I pray that the coming years will even be more impactful.

Long live PELUM Kenya!

Ms. Manei Naanyu, Coordinator- EOAI Eastern Africa Regional Secretariat- PELUM Kenya



It is now two- and- half years since I joined PELUM Kenya, and the learning has been tremendous. This is my first experience working with a large network as well as coordinating a regional project comprising of six countries; Kenya,

Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Ethiopia.

I have learnt a lot, especially in terms of organizing successful regional events, budget management and team work. PELUM Kenya has efficient systems and procedures which ensure transparency and professionalism in all that we do.

Most importantly, I appreciate PELUM Kenya's Management for being gender sensitive by allowing flexible working hours for breastfeeding mothers and letting them carry their young ones when out of their duty stations. This enables young mothers to work effectively and efficiently by balancing office and family lives. I look forward to growing more, and nurturing my career at PELUM Kenya.

PELUM Kenya is doing a great job, by reaching over 2 Million farmers and pastoralists spread all over the country. As PELUM Kenya celebrates 25 years it should always endeavor to strengthen its member organizations to enable the trickle-down effect to farmers countrywide.

Congratulations to all stakeholders who have enabled the success of PELUM Kenya and PELUM Association in general.

Bathseba Ratemo, Programme Officer- Knowledge Hub and Communications- PELUM Kenya



For the two years that I have been part of the PELUM Kenya family, I have gained enormous experience. Initially, I was the Zonal Coordinator for Lower Eastern and Coast Zone, before being offered

the opportunity to serve as the Programme Officer (Knowledge Hub and Communications) at the Secretariat. The different roles have enabled

me to gain practical experience on project planning and management. I am forever grateful to PELUM Kenya for the trust and support they have showed me, and for ensuring young people have a chance and can grow as part of the PELUM Kenya family.

Being part of a Network has enabled me to gain partners, friends and allies who also share the same vision as PELUM Kenya; to ensure that communities have a healthy environment and healthy foods.

PELUM Kenya has achieved a lot so far and there is potential to create greater and bigger impact for the Member Organizations, farmers and pastoralists that we stand for. We celebrate achievements and appreciate the efforts by partners who have been with PELUM Kenya since inception and are ready to continue walking the journey

Evelyn Kaumba, Programme Officer - Monitoring and Evaluation- PELUM Kenya



Over the last four years, PELUM Kenya has felt like home to me. I am a proud staff not only because of how I've grown in my career but because of several memorable experiences I've had in my line of duty. Having come from a background where conventional agriculture was the order of the day, I am more than grateful to the PELUM Kenya family for making me realize the benefits of eating healthy and fostering sustainable production. From the lessons I have learnt over the years, I have been able to put up a roof top garden in my urban set up home. Other than the technical skills that I have learnt over the years, I am very fortunate to have met and mingled with a team that strongly believes in God.

Celebrating 25 years of existence is indeed a privilege and an honour that should not be taken for granted. As a staff and part of the larger PELUM Kenya team, we are forever indebted to the team that pioneered the noble agenda for which PELUM Kenya Exists. May God continue expanding the PELUM territories even as we aim beyond the skies.

Ms. Mary Irungu, Programme Officer- Advocacy and Communication- PELUM Kenya



I joined PELUM Kenya in January, 2015 as Programme Assistant, whereby, I supported the programme officer in the implementation of various projects. This gave me great experience and exposure to different thematic areas. I tried, failed (sometimes), learnt and kept rising.

In August, 2016, I rose to Programme Officer- Advocacy and Communication. Through the support of management, colleagues, Member Organizations and partners, we have been able to influence key policies in agriculture sector.

It gives me great pleasure to hereby, congratulate PELUM Kenya's former and current members of staff as well as Member Organizations on this auspicious 25th Anniversary Celebration. May you have a fruitful and memorable event and continued success in your future endeavors.

Edward Muiruri, Programme Officer- Agroenterprise and Market Development- PELUM Kenya



My encounter with PELUM Kenya started in 2010 while working with Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDII) based in Machakos. Through BIDII, I participated in numerous activities organized by PELUM Kenya. The project for which I was the contact person turned out to be outstanding during the Green Action Week for two consecutive years in LECZ. The experience from direct interaction with the PELUM Kenya's staff then made quite an impact in the way I view networking ever since.

In 2016, the Network implemented the Zonal Networking Strategy and BIDII was the first Host Organization in LECZ. The Zonal Coordinator then operated from BIDII though he later left the job for another engagement. The Secretariat then requested BIDII to allow for my time sharing between the Zone and BIDII. One thing led to an-

other and in 2017 I was promoted from the Zonal Coordinator LECZ to my current position at the Secretariat.

Ever since, I have had opportunities to learn more, interact with hundreds of key players in the Network and more importantly enhanced my capacity to serve through this great Network. As I honour all my colleagues, I am also humbled to have been bestowed with the Staff of the Year Award for two straight years. I attribute this to the strong team spirit and fear of God in the Organization.

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, I would urge my fellow PELUM Kenya family members to remain focused on the ball; our vision and mission, as we reach out to both the SSF&P and the duty bearers through Strategic Advocacy. For PELUM Kenya, there is no limit in the quest to promote what we believe in for the benefit of our target beneficiaries.

Happy 25th Anniversary and long service PELUM Kenya!

Mr. Nehemiah Ndinwa, Accountant- PELUM Kenya



It is my great pleasure to join PELUM Kenya secretariat and the network in celebrating 25 years of empowering communities through capacity building and promotion of Ecological Land Use.

The achievements made this far could not have been possible were it not for the supreme leadership by the Board, inspiring support by Partners and MOs, dedication and passion by the Secretariat Staff led by the Country Coordinator.

Since joining the organization in Sept 2016, I am a witness and proud to be part of a team which works tirelessly to see to it that the organization's Mandate, Vision and Mission, are well delivered.

I congratulate all stakeholders for the efforts. I feel lucky and glad to be part of the team and network. Happy 25th Anniversary!

Ms. Irene Nyaboke - Administrative Officer PELUM Kenya



When joined a team of seven members of staff as an Administrative Assistant on 11th May 2011, little did know that I had a big role to play at PELUM Kenya. It took baptism by fire during my first week at work for me to realise my big role

and the impact that I was required to make within the organization. By then, preparations for the year's AGM were underway and the use of acronyms in the NGO world gave me culture shock at first. With time, I got used to the norm and the unity of PELUM Kenya family and the warmth of the staff encouraged me a lot. My tenure at PELUM-Kenya has offered me an opportunity to grow socially and economically. I have been offered opportunities to participate in International forums and also to coordinate some activities. Further I was given an opportunity to assist in the networking and also in HR which has really motivated me.

As we walk into the next era, my prayers are that our God gives us the grace and wisdom to continue working as a team, to improve the livelihoods of farmers through our members.

Congratulations PELUM Kenya @ 25 years!

Ms. Sarah Wambui, Zonal Coordinator, Nairobi and Central Zone - PELUM Kenya



I started my professional career with PELUM Kenya in March 2015 as a Zonal Networking Assistant for Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone based in Isiolo, and hosted by ADSMKE Member Organization. Since then

PELUM has provided me with numerous opportunities for learning and development as well as a platform to gain invaluable experience. Working with a network is definitely different from working for a particular organization. Although it has its challenges I have had a unique opportunity to collaborate with people from across demographics, working on different projects, but all towards the same goal.

I strongly believe PELUM Kenya provides an exemplary platform and opportunities for individ-

uals to progress and develop across a range of diverse career paths. The opportunity to get involved with complex programmes and work on a course you believe in, coupled with the support from other staff and the management makes PELUM Kenya, an organization you can confidently build a long-term career.

I am proud to be associated with one of the Kenya's greatest Network, which helps me make a difference in the world, no matter how small. Overall I like what I do!

Ms. Beth Omae - Zonal Coordinator for the Rift Western Kenya - PELUM Kenya



Being a Zonal Coordinator for the Rift Western Kenya Zone is the perfect job for me. This is especially because it challenges me both mentally and physically. Additionally, it gives me the opportunity to build relationships with so many

other Member Organizations (MOs) from the PELUM-Kenya network.

For the two years that I have worked in PELUM-Kenya, I have been able to gain more skills, and discovered my areas of strength. Managing a zone with 18 MOs has not been a walk in the park. However, with support from the Secretariat and the MOs in the zone I have been able to realize a lot of achievements, and deliver as expected.

I have been capacity-built in most areas which are applicable to my line of work through the numerous workshops and trainings organized by PELUM-Kenya.

I don't think I'll ever stop growing here. And this, is a wonderful feeling to have.

Ngunjiri Kihoro, Zonal coordinator for Lower Eastern and Coast zone - PELUM Kenya



It is now five years since I joined PELUM Kenya, following great motivation by my mentor, Mr. Ngunjiri. I came from the comfort zone of being a banker, and joined the organization, albeit being very green in NGOs' matters.

Initially, all was not smooth sailing, but through

determination and support from my colleagues, my experience working in PELUM Kenya has been worthwhile and rewarding. I have turned my job into a career (working to help others) by identifying what gaps are there in the society and trying to bridge them.

I am very grateful to the PELUM Kenya fraternity for the opportunity of having you as a family through happiness and sorrow.

To the members of PELUM Kenya, (especially LECZ) I really appreciate the support you accord me as I serve you.

Benson Isohe, Zonal Coordinator- Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya - PELUM Kenya



I am a proud Peluminate because, before joining PELUM Kenya I had little experience working in an agricultural organization. My journey has been extremely enriching; with a lot of learning, career development and fulfilment.

Since my campus days I always felt that development work intrigue me. I always aspired to be part of the efforts that bring solutions, empower and improve livelihoods in societies.

PELUM Kenya has not only created opportunities for self-development, but also network platforms that have resulted in meaningful interactions. This has led to enhanced capacities at a personal level, as well as for the Member Organizations (MOs), thus, contributing positively in execution of my duties.

I thank my colleagues for the fruitful engagements we share and the support you accord me. As we continue serving the communities through our MOs, let us deepen our practices, learning, knowledge sharing and wisdom. Together we live up to the mission of empowered and prosperous communities.

Mr. Roland Mwalugha, Driver/Mechanic - PELUM Kenya



I joined PELUM Kenya in February 2009 as Driver cum Mechanic. Since then, I have experienced PELUM's growth in terms of personnel, capital based, assets and programmes which have brought positive

impact to farmers who are under the hawk eyed stewardship of our member organizations.

When I joined PELUM Kenya, I was the only driver and mechanic of one Country Coordinator's vehicle KAR 415 B and within twinkle of an eye a Noah and New Suzuki (TD54W) were added in the list of vehicles. I have always been bee-busy; dropping staff to projects' sites and capacity enhancement workshops all over Kenya. This has immensely grown my passion for working at PELUM Kenya. Along my line of duty, I have learnt and fallen in love with agro - ecology principles which are actually the basis of healthy living.

More so I have met and made friends with people who advocate and practice agriculture and environmental-friendly practices. I have been learning from them, and I keep spreading the good principles of agro ecology practices to my friends, and neighbours back in Taita.

In regard to my department I thank GOD for blessing us with another vehicle (Nissan Navarra).

George Foro, Assistant Driver/Mechanic- PELUM Kenya



For the last five years that I have been working at PELUM Kenya, I have gained a lot in terms of experience, knowledge and a sense of belonging.

I have gained a lot of skills in land management by participating in capacity building trainings which are organized for MOs and while taking programme staff to field visit especially with Monitoring and Evaluation officer. Having been born and brought up in the city, I had no experience in agriculture and could not tell between conventional and organic agriculture, and their pros and cons.

PELUM Kenya has been allowing me to take study leave while pursuing a Bachelor's degree at St Paul's university. Additionally, it has offered me an internship opportunity to facilitate the completion of a degree in Community Development.

PELUM Kenya is a good employer and such a good network where one can learn a lot in terms of Agro Ecology practices. Indeed, this is the place to be for those who want to learn on Agro Ecology practices.

FORMER PELUM KENYA STAFF

Pauline Kimani, Former Finance and Administrative Manager



I am currently working as a Regional grants officer at Alliance for green Revolution in Africa, AGRA is an African-led African-based organization that seeks to catalyse Agriculture Transformation in Africa. PELUM Kenya equipped me

with immense knowledge on multi donor reporting, grant making a great and systems strengthening for partners. My current career path is an outright outcome of experience gained at PELUM Kenya.

Message going forward. Regenerative Agriculture and climate smart technologies has gain more currency than ever before. PELUM Kenya has a greater role moving forward

Tom Kibet, Former Accountant



When I joined to PELUM Kenya, I had only done part 1 and 2 of ACCA. However, the CEO, Mr. Zachary Makanya and the then Finance and Administration Manager Ms. Pauline Kimani encouraged me to enroll for my undergraduate.

I successfully completed my undergraduate and enrolled for a Master's Degree while still working for PELUM Kenya. The conducive environment and the support I got was of great help and I am forever grateful.

Currently, I am a businessman based in Kericho. I am also trying to secure a scholarship to pursue a PHD.

PELUM Kenya has perfected the spirit of team work and work ethics. These two virtues are still very impactful to my life, to date.

As PELUM Kenya celebrates the silver jubilee, I believe it is now time to strive to make impact on small scale farming across all the 47 counties. I believe the staff and the management have what whatever it takes to achieve this goal.

Humphrey Mwamboo, Former Programme Operations Manager



My tenure at PELUM Kenya offered me an opportunity to closely interact with small holder farmers, thus exposing me to the immense potential within them, to generate scientific knowledge which remains underutilized. The

realization that smallholder farmers can contribute to knowledge -generation led me to the university career where I honed my skills in tapping communities' knowledge and expertise for knowledge generation.

Currently I head Socio-Economic and Community Engagement Programme at Mount Kenya University, which is involved with translation of research into actionable activities, aimed at benefiting the community.

As a result of my interaction with PELUM Kenya I have developed in-depth knowledge of how to work with small holder farmers, to achieve higher farm productivity and scientifically document the information generated. Additionally, I got an opportunity to work with students and scholars thus expanding my professional network.

My message to PELUM Kenya as it matches towards the next Silver Jubilee Era is to utilize the opportunity it has to not only support small scale farmers improve productivity but also continuously document the processes, success and challenges to benefit the farming community worldwide. Further, the network may take on additional role of offering field trainings to young farmers and scholars which will definitely have a ripple effect on the resources invested.

May the Almighty God give you the strength and support to hold someone's hand into the next success story.

Thank you.

Caroline Mukeku Nyari- Former Finance & Administration Manager, Later a Programme Operations Manager



On November 23rd, 2007, I reported to work at PELUM Kenya during an AGM as a Finance and Administration Manager. This was my life's game changer. I met a small team of six staff members, who were very diverse, dynamic, warm, encouraging, and hardworking.

As a team, we moved to great strides to making what PELUM Kenya is today; from strengthening the organizational systems and structures, coordinating farmer events, sub granting member organizations, fundraising for projects with financial portfolios which we never thought we would manage, to winning annual regional competitions for 2 years in a row (fun moments indeed).

PELUM Kenya team was a strong knit family, we shed tears, celebrated personal success together and were a force to reckon in the AG space. Above all, PELUM Kenya, contributed immensely to shaping who I am today. I learnt to have a positive attitude towards work, shared leadership, time management, support and grow a team, and encourage diligence at work. These are among the values I still live with and pass on.

Monica Chege, Former Finance and Administration Officer



I joined PELUM Kenya in 2003 as a Finance and Administration officer. For a long time, it was just Mr. Zachary Makenya and I, working for PELUM Kenya.

Then aged 25, I may not necessarily have been so serious with life and in building my career. But I thank Mr. Zachary, who saw beyond my wild ways and did not sway in his belief of what I was capable of. He pushed me, I pushed back, and eventually, I settled and worked hard.

At PELUM Kenya, I grew! I threw in all my weight, and as Jeff, Maryleen, Triza, Anne and the rest joined, they found a very stable duo. I took the

role of holding the hands of new staff and trying to ease their settling down.

I keep telling everyone who would care to listen that Mr. Zachary, Mr Mutura, Mr Ngunjiri and PELUM Kenya in general, made me. They believed in me and I did not disappoint them. PELUM Kenya gave me, me! I am who I am because Zachary believed in excellence; excellence begets excellence!

I am deeply and forever grateful.

Viva Zachary! Viva PELUM Kenya!

Teresiah W. Ng'ang'a, Former Programme Officer- Campaigns, Advocacy & Lobby



As I await to graduate with my PhD in Dryland Resource Management I am happy to narrate how PELUM Kenya impacted on my journey as a social economist and a social entrepreneur.

I joined PELUM Kenya in 2005 as the Campaign Advocacy and Lobbying Officer (CAL) coordinating the activities of Kenya Biodiversity Concern Coalition (KEGCO). As I took up the position, an immediate challenge struck me; that I was leaving a job with a more assured pay, to a position that could only sustain me for three months. Happy to say, I overcame. I left PELUM Kenya for further studies in 2008. Taking up this risky opportunity created in me a strong and unfading trait as a risk taker. This has allowed me to venture into risky but profitable agri-businesses. For example; I import live Day Old Chicks from India. The courage to do this originated from my decision to move to PELUM Kenya.

It was while at PELUM Kenya that I started to travel, and enjoy the benefits of traveling abroad. I thank Mr. Zachary Makanya, for giving me the chance to represent the organization as a key note speaker at a Biodiversity forum in the Netherlands. I did this in his absence although he joined me at a later date. I do not know how my good performance reached him but he was very

excited as he narrated what he had been told. He widened my perspective and helped me visualize a possibility of furthering my studies in Wageningen University in the Netherlands. I pursued this discussion while in the Netherlands and later got a scholarship to pursue my Masters. The rest of my story as a scholar has been anchored strongly on this foundation together with interaction and networking opportunities as I continued growing in my career.

As a networking institution, PELUM Kenya taught me the same skills which I proudly apply to date. I use the networking skills gained to build the capacities of stakeholders in the poultry value chain, particularly those who have embraced our Women and Youth Economic Transformation Model (WYETU); where our entrepreneurs interact and network. This is inclusive of leadership skills and decisiveness.

As the PELUM Kenya family celebrates 25 years, I wish to confirm the profound saying: "Once a PELUMitte forever a PELUMitte". I am so proud to be a scholar, a networker and a PELUMitte at large. Long live PELUM Kenya. The journey of victory has just begun, you have been planting; now let us focus on harvesting, institutional sustainability and continuity.

Ann Wangombe, Former Administrative Assistant



PELUM Kenya was my first employer and as such I learnt a lot (I can't even mention) which has greatly impacted the person I am today. Thank you PELUM-Kenya and continue doing the great work, we shall be cheering you on

from the sides and my heart will forever have a prayer for all the great work you as a team are doing. Remember, keep up the good work and leave a legacy to behold. To be adopted and assimilated by others

PELUM REGIONAL SECRETARIAT & COUNTRY CHAPTERS

Ms. Anne Nashipae, Regional Board Chairperson- PELUM Association



I work with Neighbours Initiative Alliance. My encounter with PELUM Kenya started way back in 2012. I enjoyed attending different trainings and workshops facilitated by PELUM Kenya. Thereafter, I became the point person for all PELUM Kenya activities in the organization. Through the trainings I became bold and courageous and could stand in different platforms to talk on issues affecting pastoral and agro pastoral communities.

During the 2015 AGM in Maua, delegates elected me as a representative in the delegation to Trial-Annual General Meeting in Lusaka, Zambia.

This opportunity gave me another milestone in my life as a development worker. During the meeting in Lusaka a new board was elected. I gave it a trial through my speech and was elected as the board vice chairperson. Currently, I am serving as the chairperson and pledge to take PELUM Network to a greener and promising future.

Hannington Owegi, Secretary General PELUM Association



We are gathered here today to celebrate a very important piece of history in the life of PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya in particular. PELUM Kenya's 25 years of selfless service to smallholder farmers in the areas of agro-ecology, agro-enterprise development, nature-based enterprise and food system reform agendas is something we cannot take for granted. The journey towards ensuring that smallholder farmers in Africa are food secure has been long, challenging and sometimes even dangerous for Civil Society Organizations including PELUM Association, especially in Africa where farmer movements are viewed as a threat to some governments.

PELUM Association, largely PELUM Kenya, have represented the voice of farmers in various forums especially those engaged in ecological agriculture in Kenya, Africa and globally.

It is however sad to note that with all the important benefits of agro-ecology which has been at the heart of many developing and even developed countries, there has not been the goodwill from governments to entrench agro-ecology policies in development practices.

Let us continue supporting smallholder farmers in their quest to attain food security through agro-ecological practices. Long live PELUM Kenya.

PELUM Swaziland

Tsakasile Dlamini, Country Coordinator- PELUM Swaziland



Happy 25th Anniversary PELUM Kenya! We are very fortunate to be part of a network that has such a long serving country chapter as a constant source of inspiration and motivation for us as new chapters. The

work you have done over the years has touched the lives of thousands of farmers and those who depend on them for their livelihoods. We wish you many more years of success, growth and impact on the lives of small holder farmers!

PELUM Malawi



*Pieter Ntenda
Chair, PELUM Malawi*



*Reginald Mumba Country
Coordinator, PELUM Malawi*

Congratulations PELUM Kenya for being resilient to develop PELUM Association not only in Kenya, but also across countries of East and Southern Africa through your advocacy for the best practices. Your efforts have played a tremendous role in rescuing our farmers from multi-national companies' monopoly of seed and other farm inputs supply. Keep on being a shining example. Hongera!

PELUM Tanzania



Ezekiel John Massawe, Board Chairperson- PELUM Tanzania



Donati Alex Senzia, Country Coordinator - PELUM Tanzania

Congratulations to PELUM Kenya as you celebrate your 25th Anniversary.

The first time I interacted with PELUM Kenya Country Secretariat Staff, Member Organizations as well as farmers supported by those member organizations, was in June 2003. I was participating in an International Advocacy Training Workshop organized by PELUM Regional Secretariat, hosted by PELUM Kenya. I met smiling faces of the Country Secretariat staff led by Mr. Zachary Makanya, supported by Monica Mwangi. Since then, I have witnessed the growth, success and achievements of PELUM Kenya. With reference to the Country Secretariat, PELUM Kenya has been a good communicator, networker, energizer, coach, and mentor. PELUM Kenya is always raising the flag of PELUM Association high.

I wish you more success in the coming years for the benefit of small-scale farmers.

PELUM Uganda



Dr. Christopher Kyeswa, Chairperson Coordinator - PELUM Uganda



Stella Lutalo, Country Coordinator - PELUM Uganda

25 solid years of promoting Ecological Land Use is proof of the relevancy of the work you do with farmers in Kenya. PELUM Uganda is proud to associate with PELUM Kenya and the work you do. Accept heartfelt congratulations from the PELUM Uganda fraternity upon the well-deserved silver jubilee celebrations, and best wishes for the future as we continue together to build a strong network for a greener Africa.

PELUM Zimbabwe



Gertrude Pswarayi-Jabson, Country Coordinator- PELUM Zimbabwe



Chester Chituwu, Board Chairperson- PELUM Zimbabwe

PELUM Zimbabwe is thrilled that the PELUM Association had been in existence for the past 25 years. We cherish these years and honour them as years of learning and gaining greater wisdom on how we can work in harmony with nature and participate as responsible beings as members of the Earth Community. We join other PELUM Associations and Country Working Groups in celebrating 25 years of promoting and practising Participatory Ecological Land Use Management practices.

PELUM Zambia



Mthaziko John Zulu, Board Chairperson-PELUM Zambia



Muketoi Wamunyima, Country Coordinator, PELUM Zambia

Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary. This great milestone is a celebration for us all in the PELUM family. A dedication and commitment to our small scale farmers and our quest to make a greener continent and a better life for all. We wish God's continued blessings to management and staff of PELUM Kenya.

PELUM Ethiopia



*Hailu Araya Tedla,
Country Coordinator-
PELUM Ethiopia*



*Asrat Mengesha Desta,
Board Chairperson-
PELUM Ethiopia*

I must have heard about PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya around the year 2003 or 2004. Five organizations from Ethiopia were invited for three consecutive workshops in Arusha (Tanzania), Kigali (Rwanda) and then Nairobi (Kenya). We fell in love with PELUM due to the strength of the Country Coordinator (Mr. Zachary Makanya) and Board Members (Mr. Ngunjiri and Mr. Mutura).

After all these workshops the representatives agreed to establish PELUM Ethiopia. However, for numerous reasons, we could not. I was pre-occupied by other duties and was furthering my studies. Then after PELUM Ethiopia had long been forgotten; I met the late Mr. Tibamanya and Mr Makanya of PELUM Tanzania and Kenya re-

spectively. Thanks to both of them for insisting that I should restart the process of establishing PELUM Ethiopia. The whole process was undertaken with close advice from Mr. Zachary Makanya. To date, he is still is our mentor.

Congratulations PELUM Kenya as you celebrate your Silver Jubilee.

PELUM Lesotho



*Dorcas Moeketsi, Country
Coordinator, PELUM
Lesotho*



*Sebotseng Raseeke, Board
Chairperson, PELUM
Lesotho*

Congratulations my fellow PELUM Association chapter. Here in Lesotho we send our anniversary congratulations.

We wish PELUM Kenya continued growth

FUNDING PARTNERS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC)

The SSNC wishes to warmly congratulate the PELUM Association and the PELUM Kenya on their 25th year anniversary.

The PELUM Kenya is a strong and important actor in promoting biological diversity (including seed security), food security and sovereignty, as well as climate change as key issues for the sustainability and health of both the planet and humans.

Through their extensive network of Member Organisations, the PELUM Kenya clearly demonstrates the greater value of working together and becoming stronger in the pursuit of a shared goal. The PELUM Kenya further holds a great strength in highlighting the rights-based perspective of small-holder farmers as well as the importance of including women and youth.

From the SSNC, we highly appreciate the friendly and inclusive atmosphere of both the staff and members of the PELUM Kenya. The PELUM Kenya has over the years demonstrated their professionalism, dedication, and passion for making a difference.



Karin Lexén, Secretary General- SSNC



Elie Metni, Project Controller- SSNC



Malin Stråle, Programme Manager, Agriculture and Food Security- SSNC



Malin Stråle, Programme Manager, Agriculture and Food Security- SSNC

Bread for the World

Bread for the World congratulates PELUM Kenya for its 25th anniversary! 25 years of promoting participatory Ecological Land Use principles and management to empower the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. 25 years of making the voice of the grass-root farmers heard, and 25 years of growing from a tiny one-staff office into a vibrant network of more than 50 member organizations are wonderful reasons to celebrate! Bread for the World is proud of walking together with PELUM Kenya for more than 15 years now – where we established a genuine and strong partnership grounded in mutual respect, tied together by the wish to really make a change. In view of the global challenges ahead, we use your celebrations as an opportunity to validate our commitment to PELUM Kenya. You never walk alone!



Reverend Prof. Dr. h. c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel- President of Bread for the World



Monika Pepping, Program Officer - East Africa / Horn of Africa Desk

Tudor Trust



Ihsaan Budaly, Grants Support Assistant-Tudor Trust

Amid increasing challenges around the environment and food security, your voice and your work in raising awareness remain valuable while the support you give directly to farmers and communities is ever more important. No doubt that the connections and partnerships you build will continue to be fruitful for both yourselves and those you work with. It has been a real privilege for Tudor to be involved in PELUM Kenya's story and to see the organisation develop. Wishing you a great celebration!

Matt Dunwell, Tudor Trust

25 years of PELUM Kenya! What a fantastic achievement. I have watched the various PELUM networks over the last 25 years and have been particularly impressed with the way PELUM Kenya has grown into a professional, dependable, yet approachable and inclusive family over the years.

Networks are difficult children. You have to hold space for independent organizations to come together, honouring differences, yet finding common ground to present a strong voice for advocacy and mutual support. There are organizational skills needed, but there are also very human qualities needed - the ability to really listen and to distill key actions that deliver meaningful value to members. This is the lifeblood of a good network. But also to know what is PELUM territory and what is not PELUM territory - where to leave action to members and where to step up to the plate.

So, I am tremendously proud to be associated with PELUM Kenya and the journey it has undertaken - to see its evolution, and the agency that now has as a strong voice for small-scale farmers who are often over looked and certainly undervalued in today's world. PELUM stands on the shoulders of these farmers who continue to innovate, to live out the principles of regenerative agriculture and who have wisdom beyond their years.

And now the future lies ahead with changes and no doubt some bumps on the road! There is always room for improvement! Here is my challenge - we have to imagine beyond our limits. We have to scale up what we know is the right course of action. The 'alternative agriculture' movement must become mainstream if we are to build prosperity, health and regenerative landscapes. PELUM has a strong foundation to build from and the time is ripe for bold action.

At a time when we need clear strategy and solidarity for the next 25 years, PELUM Kenya stands ready for action to take its work beyond our collective imagination!

Both Ends

We sincerely congratulate PELUM Kenya for 25 years of successfully advancing sustainable agriculture and an inclusive governance of natural resources throughout Kenya and beyond. Whilst the start of our collaboration only dates back to

2018 when we first met in Thika, the last three years have confirmed much of the trust we had in you back then. Your dedication and professionalism is an inspiration to all of us and confirms our strong believe in the success that organisations and networks like yours can have. We hope



Melvin van der Veen, Inclusive Water Governance Officer



Stefan Schüller, Land Governance and Climate Adaptation Officer

that this success story will continue long into the future and look forward to collaborating with you in the years ahead.

GLS Future Foundation for Development

Dr. Annette Massmann, CEO- GLS Future Foundation for Development



This is a great occasion celebrating the 25th Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

Times are challenging, especially for smallholder farmers and pastoralists, as the pressure caused by climate change, unfavourable market conditions and the pandemic is increasingly being felt by Kenyan households.

During these 25 years, PELUM Kenya has taken up the challenge to foster and support the sector of smallholder farmers and pastoralists, helping to improve institutional structures and capacities, increase knowledge and lobbying for the rights and recognition of this sector, which forms the backbone of the Kenyan economy and society.

From the beginning, PELUM Kenya has embraced sustainable ecological farming and agro-forestry practices - a fundamental approach that is nowadays gaining more and more recognition as a decisive method for counteracting climate change effects, sustaining household economies, while maintaining the environment for future generations.

You have been pioneers! By promoting participatory methods to encourage communities to use ecological practices on their land, you have increased the visibility of smallholder farmers across Kenya and in the entire region.

Much has been done - more is to come. Kenyan organic smallholder farmers and pastoralists deserve and need combative organizations reaching out to national and international politics, making the voices and necessities of this sector heard clearly and getting the sector recognized as a strategic sector which guarantees the nation's food supply while maintaining the ecological wealth of your beautiful country.

All the best, strength, health, energy and success while moving ahead to the golden jubilee - we will follow up your path!

Dr. Annette Massmann



CEO - GLS Future Foundation for Development

Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)

Dr. David M. Amudavi (PhD), Executive Director - Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)



On behalf of BvAT's Staff, Management and Board of Trustees, I take the honour to congratulate PELUM Kenya's Members for the great achievements in transforming communities' lives socially, economically and in environmentally friendly ways in different corners of this great nation over the last 25 years. We are very proud to have been part of your journey for the last ten years that we've collaborated together in the development of the now acknowledged and growing African Union-led Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative implemented across Africa.

As you embark on your Golden journey of supporting sustainable land use management and ecological development in Kenya and providing lessons and inspiration to our partners beyond our borders, BvAT wishes you the very best in harnessing your well set up resourceful talents, leveraging on relevant opportunities, optimizing on productive partnerships and staying on the cause that creates change we can all embrace.

Congratulations!

Vanancia Wambua, Programme Manager, EOA Initiative- BVAT



It is an honor to celebrate this day with you, your commitment. The pursuit to working tirelessly to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers is now stronger than ever. Your work is in tandem with Kenya's Big four Agenda on food security and nutrition and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

There are many shared values between the work of PELUM Kenya and Biovision Africa Trust which over the years has yielded positive changes through the Ecological Organic Initiatives in Africa.

Thank you for this partnership and wishing you continued success for many more years to come.

Alex Mutungi, Coordinator- EOA Initiative Continental Secretariat-BVAT



On this milestone occasion of PELUM Kenya's Silver Jubilee Anniversary, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of my own behalf and the behalf of African Union Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) Continental Secretariat,

to extend warm congratulations and best wishes to PELUM Kenya and applaud your worthy cause in supporting EOA-I. Through our cordial partnership and collaboration, EOA can only keep making inroads within food systems nationally, regionally and continentally.

Francis Nsanga, Manager KCOA Project, Eastern Africa Hub- BVAT



It's indeed a pleasure to celebrate 25 years of great impact at a time when your services and influence as the PELUM Association are need today much more than ever before. As we open the new chapter of the next 25 years, we

look back with gratitude from which we tap the strength to face the future with renewed hope. We are definitely destined for healthier food and sustainable ecosystems with the intensification and extension of our services and influence as a

family. I am deeply indebted to be associated with PELUM Kenya!! Congratulations!

Innovations in Development, Education and the Mathematical Sciences (IDEMS), UK

Congratulations on PELUM'S 25th anniversary! We very much look forward to continuing working together in the coming years.



David Stern, IDEMS



Danny Parsons, IDEMS



Beth Medvecky, IDEMS

PELUM KENYA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Dr. Nehemiah Mihindo, Director- Africa IPM Alliance



On behalf of Africa IPM Alliance, I would like to congratulate PELUM Kenya for the good work you have done in making our world a better place, through different sustainable development interventions. You have successfully managed to bring together different civil society organizations promoting agroecology to harness our strengths for the common good of the local communities.

The commitment to capacity development of the Member Organizations in various development fields is something that has made them have a lot of confidence in you. Your able staff have done all they can to make sure that we gain as much knowledge as possible

As you celebrate 25 years of existence in Kenya We are proud to be part of you and will continue participating in projects and programs that will ensure that the network is strong and sustainable.

May God bless you!

John Mutua, CEO- Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE)



I knew PELUM Kenya when it was just a small organization. As ADSE, we were among the first organizations to join as members. I have seen it grow due to the enthusiastic and optimism character of its staff

under the leadership of Mr. Zachary Makanya. It has taken a lot of efforts to scale the heights and make PELUM Kenya one of the leading networks in this region. At one point in time, the idea of a network called PELUM was just that; an idea. But with an immense amount of drive and passion, that idea is now a reality; a very strong and vibrant network. Judging from what you have been able to achieve, you have that same drive and passion. I am so excited to continue watching you make your ideas soar! As ADSE, we have benefited a lot by being a member of this network. The capacity building of our staffs and the communities we serve are a true testament that PELUM Kenya is destined for greatness.

When Steve Jobs set out to build the Macintosh, he didn't know he would effectively change the future of the world. As I watch you achieve each milestone on your journey to success, there is no doubt in my mind that you have the same potential to change the world. I'm so proud of you and as you celebrate 25 years of service, I take this opportunity on behalf of ADSE to send our good wishes and heartfelt congratulations to you. Continue soaring.

Congratulations!

Martin Muriuki, Director-ICE Kenya



For the last 25 years PELUM Kenya has grown from a local organization to a national networking and advocacy institution with a countrywide representation. Congratulations!

Patrick Katelo Sissako, Executive Director- PACIDA



On behalf of PACIDA Board, Staff and my own behalf allow me to say congratulations on the 25th anniversary celebration of doing wonderful value adding programs in building the nation and specifically targeting the vulnerable groups within the society. Always remember that service to humanity is service to God.

Bishop. Dr. Titus Masika, Founder and Director- Christian Impact Mission (CIM)



CIM's encounter with PELUM Kenya began back in 2017 after the Country Coordinator; Mr. Zachary Makanya, personally visited the CIM Centre in Yatta and besides appreciating our work shared about PELUM and the reason for its existence. Fully convinced, we went through the application process and successfully joined.

CIM immediately began to reap of the member benefits. These included networking and increased linkages of members to other members and partners through learning and exposure. We have since received teams for exposure on resilience practices both from PELUM member organizations and regional delegates.

From the regional delegates visit in 2018, CIM connected with PELUM Uganda who sent their team for training at the CIM Centre in 2019, and through the network had two of their youth beneficiaries enroll for a regional FAO sponsored youth empowerment program an CIM. A team from our office managed to visit the PELUM Uganda's Namayumba Epicenter while on the youth mentorship program all; "kudos" to PELUM Kenya.

Besides networking, I must comment on PELUM's relentless efforts to empower her member organizations through numerous capacity building forums and sharing of rich information.

Long Live PELUM Kenya!

Kenneth Mwangi, CEO - CARE Muranga



We at CARE Murang'a are proud to be associated with PELUM. We highly appreciate the support given to us since our inception and would therefore like to congratulate you for 25 years of great service. Wishing you God's blessings.

CARE-Muranga would like to take this opportunity to thank PELUM Kenya for its contribution in transforming the smallholder farmers at the MOs level. As an Organization, we have benefited and learnt a lot since joining the network and hope this valuable collaboration will continue. Congratulations PELUM Kenya as you, celebrate your great achievements.

Heko na hongera kwa kazi njema! Tunawaombea heri njema katika siku za usoni! (Congratulations for the great work. We pray for better days ahead!)

Mr. Stephen Amusala, CEO, ADS-Western



The Anglican Development Services Western Region (ADSW) has been a member of PELUM Kenya for over 14 years. We take pride in many areas that PELUM Kenya has strengthened the capacity of ADSW and our beneficiaries.

ADSW has benefitted from numerous trainings on financial and programmatic management, resource mobilization, lobby and advocacy, food security & environmental areas, among others. Members of staff and communities have attended field visits, exposure tours, lobby marches and symposiums, hence, gaining much desired skills and experience to enhance their capacities to do participatory and ecological land use management practices.

ADSW is therefore a proud member of, and congratulates PELUM Kenya for attaining 25 years of fruitful service in enhancing capacities of member organizations and community service. Long live PELUM Kenya!

Rev. Oscar Otieno Ekesa, Programs Partnership and fund-raising Manager of ADS Western

I came to know about PELUM Kenya in mid-2000's as a strong, unequalled and unparalleled MOs-network in Kenya, whose mission is to promote ELUM practices for improved livelihoods among smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

PELUM Kenya has been an eye opener to various communities in Western Kenya, through the

various programmes initiated from using ecologically - friendly technologies to produce organic food products.

This has been done through interventions trainings for MOs like (ADS-W), through which members of staff have undergone intensive training on ELUM practices.

As a strong PELAMite, I take pride in having been a long-standing Board Member, attending numerous network functions including board meetings, AGMs, CWGs meetings, staff capacity building meetings, zonal meetings and various capacity building sessions organized by PELUM Kenya.

I thank PELUM Kenya for the unending efforts to strengthen capacities of MOs and small scale farming communities in aspects of ecological and land use management. PELUM Kenya is evidently present not only in Western Kenya, but also in the larger Kenya as well as Africa, where we have regularly discussed on how to strengthen the wider African PELUM fraternity for over six years when I served as a board member.

Viva PELUM!

Mr. John Mwaniki, Team Leader/ Programs Manager - BIDII



Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDII) joined PELUM Kenya in 2010. Within a period of 4 years, BIDII's CEO was elected to the Board, serving as Vice-chairperson

between the years 2014-2016. Joining PELUM was one of the best decisions BIDII made: The organization has benefited tremendously in diverse ways. These include;

BIDII's project and finance staffs get opportunities once or twice annually, to attend training workshops on different thematic areas organized by PELUM Kenya. Knowledge and skills learnt in these workshops have been translated into actionable deliverables at community level.

On Financial support, BIDII received close to Ksh 2.5 million during the period 2010 to 2017: The organization received Ksh 714,000 for Savings and Loans Association (SLA) groups which was geared towards promoting their initiatives for improved livelihood; Ksh 86,950 Changia Raslimali; Ksh 300,000 Green African week and Ksh

1.3million for Advocacy. These initiatives cumulatively impacted positively over 2000 farmers in Machakos and Makueni counties.

When the creation of PELUM Zonal Networking Model begun in 2014, BIDII hosted the Lower Eastern and Coastal Zone at its offices in Machakos town. BIDII is proud to have been given this opportunity. The direct involvement with the PELUM secretariat provided a platform for BIDII to grow in the area of management, financial accountability and networking. The cooperation built the capacity of the Zonal Coordinator stationed at BIDII. When a position of Agro Enterprise and Market Development arose at the secretariat, the Zonal Coordinator, through the process of recruitment was hired.

BIDII has walked closely with PELUM Kenya for the last 10 years. BIDII's contribution will always be engraved in the history pages whenever the history of PELUM Kenya is written.

Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri, Executive Director-RODI Kenya



I formally joined PELUM association as the first board vice chair, and rose within the governance structure to become the second board chair, a post I held for many years. I opted to step down and handed the mantle to my vice only to be appealed upon to become the vice chair. I am now a dutiful ELUM elder, and equal to the task of giving support while needed, and the CEO of one of PELUM MOs, Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI).

I have seen PELUM association grow from reaps and bounds in terms championing ELUM, membership, programs, members of staff, funding, links, profile etc.; it is in a class of its own; kudos to the governance, the executive arm and the MOs.

I am delighted to have had a chance to not only serve PELUM but to also learn a lot from the network. I am proud to be associated with PELUM, a network that is different from most networks.

PELUM association has done very well in promoting ELUM; and can proudly boast of contributing to organic/agro ecological farming practices in the country. However, farmers are frustrated by producing food crops which end up being mixed up with inorganically grown ones at the market place and therefore losing on premium prices.

Consumers and dealers in organic products are also frustrated because of more or less the same problem. PELUM MOs should be encouraged to venture into marketing of organic products by establishing albeit county platforms to meet the needs of their allies, farmers and consumers, not to mention other dealers in the organic value chain. RODI is thinking in that line.

A child born 25 years ago is no longer a child; and he/ she is not a teen either, but is mature and capable of being a mother or a father; but not yet a grandparent. When you become a grandparent, this is the most enjoyable part of one's life. Unfortunately, the performance curve starts going down and eventually flattens.

PELUM Kenya, you are now 25 years. If my observation is anything go by, you have done your best. You are class 'A' network; aim high and go for the best. I will however be quick to say, 'do not be complacent'.

The playing ground is not level; it is inundated with all sorts of challenges, but because you have weathered the formative and hard part of the journey, you have all the reasons to celebrate.

There are many ways of celebrating a good thing, an achievement and/or a job well done. There equally could be many ways of celebrating 25 years of existence. I will mention and justify, two in the case of PELUM Kenya and also justify them:

One is to count and bring out the achievements made by the association in the last 25 years. Why? In order to feel good and to learn from them as you plan the next 25 years or so.

The second one is to list down the mistakes the association has made in its 25 years of life. Why? In order to learn from its mistakes.

If I were to choose between the two I would obviously go for the first one. Why? Because it feels good reciting or remembering those good things and moments. It is elating and gives one a reason to celebrate and look forward with one's head high.

I hate number two, much as we are told we learn from our mistakes. Why? It is debilitating to think of those bad experiences; if one is not careful the bad feeling can be overwhelming and pull you back.

Julius Mutuma, Manager- CEFA KKWP



PELUM Kenya, you are a great network, a mother of Ecological Land Use, you have nurtured, supported and empowered member organizations and small farms holders for 25 years. As we celebrate your prosperity, may your great work of transforming and making Africa greener be felt in all parts of our country, in our government, political and religious class and among the small farm holders. Long live PELUM Kenya. Wishing you God's blessings and a happy anniversary

Mr. Joseph Lentunyoi, Director/ Founder- Laikipia Permaculture Center Trust (LPCT)



I first interacted with PELUM Kenya while doing some consultancy work. Jointly with other consultants, we co-authored PELUM's research brief on Ecological Land Use Management (ELUM) practices. It was then that LPCT decided to join PELUM Kenya in order to scale up our efforts of promoting ELUM practices in the rangelands of Laikipia County.

Since joining PELUM Kenya in 2016, we have grown from an individual dream to a fully functional Permaculture Centre. Our efforts of rangeland rehabilitation have grown to a great level.

PELUM Kenya trained the community on permaculture/agro-ecology and planted trees, grass and shrubs. Additionally, PELUM Kenya has trained our field personnel on ELUM practices. Office staff members have also been trained on issues relevant to various departments.

We have also attended networking symposiums and managed to make meaningful networks with other Member Organizations. Through market events and exhibitions organized by PELUM Kenya, we have been showcasing our products as well as those from our farmer groups. Whenever necessary, PELUM Kenya has always been willingly supportive.

PELUM Kenya has brought us together, as one united movement, thus, making us stronger.

Keep doing this PELUM Kenya! God Bless!

Ms. Janet Syombua Mumo, Executive Director - Kitui Development Centre (KDC)



I was introduced to PELUM Kenya by Mr. Bernard Kitonyi of INADES Formation, and joined the network in May 2010. On behalf of KDC, I saw an opportunity to learn and share experiences on proper utilization of local resources,

in tandem with our mission statement.

Since joining PELUM Network, I have expanded my knowledge in the areas of land use management. Through trainings I comfortably practice and train the community on Land Use Management.

In 2017, during PELUM Kenya's AGM, the Eastern MOs elected me to serve in the PELUM Kenya National Board, where I served till July 2020. I still serve in the PELUM advisory committee.

PELUM Kenya has been on the fore front in supporting projects and initiatives on environmental conservation, land use management and agricultural practices. It has also engaged KDC, together with the community members in productive trainings on organic agriculture, agro-ecology and land use management.

KDC thanks PELUM Kenya for the immense support to the organization and community; More so, for making impact to the community on matters of Land Use Management, Environmental Conservation, among others.

We are proud to be members of PELUM Kenya!

Mr. David Mwangi, Director- Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC), Kitale



I first interacted with PELUM Kenya when I was working as an accountant at MHAC, a position I held for eight years. I later advanced my career in management and leadership, and in 2017 I was appointed as the Acting Director before

being confirmed as Director in 2018.

During PELUM Kenya's AGM in 2017 at Nakuru, the eight Western MOs elected me to serve in the National Board, a position I still hold to date. I have personally gained a lot of skills in management and leadership while serving the PELUM Kenya National Board. I am the youngest serv-

ing Board Member and proud of this opportunity which gives hope to other youth leaders under PELUM Kenya MOs.

I am inspired by the words of Rajit Roy, Age 18 "Success is not about earning. It's not about status quo. Success is about having the freedom to follow your passion. It's about living your dreams. Success is about waking up in the morning and saying, 'I'm born again!'"

I am proud to be part of the PELUM Kenya family. I therefore ask all MOs to value PELUM Kenya's activities and be proactive in their quest for quality and progress. ASANTENI SANAA!!

Stephen Wainaina, Director-OACK



OACK congratulates PELUM Kenya for the 25th anniversary celebrations. We appreciate the fruits of networking that we have continued to enjoy since we joined the network. We look forward to

more collaboration in the future

Ms. Esther Kiruthi Kagai, Founder/Director-CSHEP-Kenya.



Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP-Kenya) joined PELUM-KENYA, in the year 2015, after a long time collaboration with PELUM member organizations

where we were introduced to the network. We got interested after attending a capacity building workshop with my colleague, which was so well organized. We gained great experience and skills. We decided to apply and were ratified at Thika during a PELUM Kenya AGM. This far, we are proud to be a member of the network. We've benefited a lot and we hope we have been of benefit to the network.

You have been an essential part of our organization's journey and success. We are eternally grateful for the dedication and passion you have shown. Thank you for being with us. Happy PELUM Anniversary!"

Kevin M. Kamuya, Director- Utooni Development Organization



Happy anniversary to one of the greatest NGO Networks in Kenya! It's a joy to work together and to celebrate this anniversary with you!

To many more. Be blessed PELUM Kenya, we highly appreciate working together!

Stanley Kinyanjui, Director- COSDEP



Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Programme (COSDEP) and PELUM Kenya, have been working closely in ensuring and promoting Agro Ecological practices among small holder farmers in different

parts of Kenya. COSDEP joined PELUM Kenya in 2005. Since then, we have maintained and strengthened our partnership for the betterment of the lives of the people we serve. COSDEP has implemented different projects supported by various donors through PELUM Kenya. This has created positive impact in the lives of the vulnerable community members who have been our target beneficiaries. Our partnership with PELUM Kenya has enabled us implement FOSELI and IWAMA-DIFE joint Projects whose success has been highly recognized and appreciated by the beneficiaries and the supporting donors. COSDEP is a proud member and wishes to continue being an active member of PELUM Kenya, and complement each other's programmes and activities in creating sustainable communities; where every individual is an innovator of his/her development opportunity.

We wish PELUM Kenya and its member organizations success in their future endeavors.

James Mwang'ombe Mwamodenyi, Manager- Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum (TTWF)



TTWF has benefitted a lot from being a member of PELUM Kenya. PELUM has enabled networking with other CSOs in Kenya undertaking similar activities. TTWF feels honoured for

being given the opportunity to host PELUM CWG meeting in 2014 where the participants visited some of the farmers we work with and for the valuable feedback received. TTWF has also benefited immensely through training opportunities for staff and farmers and also support of activities through funding.

One of the most important contributions of PELUM Kenya is the encouragement and support received at the lowest moments of the existence of TTWF which has enabled it to keep alive. We are grateful and may God bless the efforts in a mighty way.

Collins Mwakoyi, Assistant Project Manager - Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum

My maiden encounter with PELUM Kenya was in 2016 when I attended a workshop on Organic Marketing. The workshop was impactful as I gained some knowledge which I passed to my community members and we all started practicing sustainable farming. We still have hope that a time will come when we will be producing purely certified organic products from the hills despite the challenges of certification and low production.

Networking with different people during forums organized by PELUM Kenya, has also installed the spirit of hard work and diversification and made me realize that one can earn income from different sources without necessarily depending on a monthly salary.

This inspired me to start my own vegetable production enterprise. Therefore, when I preach the gospel of organic production and environmental conservation, I lead by example. As PELUM Kenya family we need to understand that collaboration is key to success in conservation.

I am so proud to be associated with PELUM Kenya.



Jack Wafula, Director- SMART Initiatives

We are proud member of PELUM Kenya network. I send my warmest wishes on your anniversary celebrations.

Mr. Samuel Nderitu, Founder/ Director- G-BIACK



G-BIACK joined the PELUM Kenya network in late 2009. 11 years down the line, G-BIACK has benefited a lot from the network. Members of staff have attended numerous capacity building workshops; on agricultural, environmental, financial management, gender-related, among others. The workshops have been held locally, regionally and internationally. The knowledge that we acquire from these workshops is then transferred to other people who require it, especially the farmers.

Several international educational tours have been done through the PELUM Kenya network. The most notable one is where I, and eight other persons from different PELUM Kenya and Member Organizations visited Navdanya foundation in India in 2011 to learn about seed saving and Agroecology. After returning back to Kenya, the first thing that we did was to establish a seed bank, collect, multiply the endangered seeds, and save them for distribution. Since then, we are doing massive work as far as seed saving and multiplication is concerned.

After 22 years of working with small holder farmers in Kenya and other African countries, and acquiring a novel of experience in Agroecology, I have been awarded an opportunity by PELUM Kenya to train agricultural extension officers from all its 57 member organizations on Agroecology. I have also been selected as one of the seven master trainers of Ecological Organic Agriculture through a project known as 'Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture KCOA'.

Eustace Kiarrii, CEO- KOAN



On behalf of Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) I wish to congratulate PELUM Kenya as you celebrate 25 years. 25 years is quarter a century, and for an organization to have been around for a quarter a century is no joke!

PELUM Kenya and KOAN have worked together in many fronts including project implementation and advocacy. As a network we are proud to be members of PELUM Kenya. PELUM Kenya has

always been on the top of the list for bringing together like- minded organizations and communities in the ecological land use space.

Elizabeth Wanja, Managing Director - INADES Formation Kenya



Over the past two decades, INADES Formation Kenya has been actively participating in PELUM Kenya's activities. Personally, I have taken part in PELUM AGM where major decisions are made.

I have also participated in critiquing the current strategic plan and shaping the new SP which is being developed. This is as a clear indication of the profound consultation PELUM Kenya does with member organisations to ensure intense participation.

Inades Formation Kenya prides in being a member and the host of the Lower Eastern and Coast regions, which also cements additional participation of PELUM Kenya's activities. This gives me an opportunity to be involved in planning and execution of PELUM Kenya's activities, to ensure cohesion in lower eastern region thus avoiding duplication of interventions

I have also been involved in vetting of new PELUM members. This validates that PELUM members are credible organisations impacting positively to the target participants.

Having participated in recruitment of some PELUM staff, I must attest to the integrity of the process which is purely based on merit. This creates confidence to member organisations that the secretariat has the technical skills needed to mentor and coach member organisations.

I am proud to be associated with PELUM Kenya as I continue enjoying a solid, credible network which is a source of wisdom to most CEO's; A network which is generous with information such as resource mobilisation, trainings, and upcoming financial partners.

Ferdinand Wafula, Director - Bio Gardening Innovations



On behalf of BIOGI the organization, we wish PELUM Association Kenya all the best as it strives to bring all organizations working on ecological

issues together. May all the efforts at the secretariat yield much more benefits to members and all their targeted constituent communities.

25 years since its establishment, PELUM Kenya has provided to many organizations a 'library,' from which to pull out books that suit their development journeys. One of the books in my hands reflects a journey of personal growth and being passionate about ecological work with local communities.

I encountered PELUM Kenya through a series of capacity building workshops under the 'Alternative Agriculture' project, around 1995. Young and excited, I met other participants, equally excited and anticipating to understand what alternative there was in the workshops. Some workshops were on permaculture design methods facilitated by a Zimbabwean called John Wilson. He caught my attention as he later became the first secretary general of the regional network. I took keen interest in the permaculture trainings through books and materials available on the internet. In 2013 PELUM Kenya offered support for its members to take an international course on 'Permaculture Design Course' (PDC), at Nyumbani centre in Kitui. This became a turning point as I interacted with many more individuals and organizations yearning to promote a holistic thinking process that envisions care of people, earth care and fair share of resources.

Bio Gardening Innovations was then modelled on the practical permaculture ethics and has since grown in scale while offering eight-partner ecological learning spaces in communities within Vihiga and Kakamega counties in Western Kenya. PELUM Kenya has benefited me more in fundraising skills and organizational development processes. Many workshops organized, provided space for productive friendships and learning. I had an opportunity to serve PELUM Kenya as a board member and cherish the experience I gathered for more than six years.

May the association grow from strength to strength and make inroads in areas that are currently posing challenges.

Best wishes to PELUM Kenya at 25!

Francis Khadudu, Founder/ Director-BERMA



BERMA joined of PELUM Kenya in 2007 through the SOSALI Project. It was at that time that BERMA members were called upon by PELUM

Kenya to establish at least 40 raised beds each, on their farms. The best two were to be given an opportunity to travel to India and Tanzania for an exchange visit, and a farmer to farmer learning experience. From the visit PELUM Kenya decided to support BERMA on the establishment of a seed bank. This initiative has contributed towards raising the number of BERMA groups, from 10 to 20 self-help groups, spread across Butula Sub County, and reaching out to about 2,000 individuals.

PELUM Kenya also supported BERMA on the rehabilitation and afforestation for degraded sites within the community, under the Changieni Rasilimali project. PELUM Kenya has been very supportive in many other ways.

I thank Mr. Zachary Makanya and the team for the good work.

Thank you all. God bless you good people.

Ken Ogolla, Field Officer- BERMA



Initially I barely had any passion for agriculture. It was until I joined BERMA in 2016, and started attending workshops, seminars, farm visits, agro ecological enterprises and more programs, that I started becoming passionate about agriculture. I am forever grateful to PELUM Kenya, which was behind all these forums that attracted me to agriculture. I have since gained a lot both theoretically and practically.

I have developed great passion for agro - ecological farming system focusing on: Agro forestry crops including; cassava, arrow root, indigenous maize, local poultry and African leafy vegetables. Agroforestry comes with a heap of economic benefits as produce fetches market both locally and in major outlets.

Regina Muthama, Chairperson - Katoloni Mission CBO



Katoloni Mission CBO joined PELUM Kenya in 2018. Since then, we have learnt a lot through collaboration, networking and advocacy. We are proud to be associated with PELUM Kenya because it is expands our vision.

Thank you very much PELUM Kenya. Live long to expand knowledge to more MOs.

Ben Boxer- Director- Self Help Africa

The entire team at Self Help Africa sincerely wishes the management and team a PELUM hearty congratulations on your anniversary. We look forward to maintaining close links with PELUM and members in the coming years as we strive to improve the prospects of smallholder farmers in Kenya. Well done!

Peter Okoth Aluoch, Project Manager- Self Help Africa (SHA)



Coming together on PELUM Kenya platform has been so informative and skills strengthening in the areas of agro-ecology, market development and agro-enterprise development. The work-

shops, exchange visits and engagement meetings were crucial in deepening understanding of key thematic areas in integration of smallholder farmers in the ecological land use management. As a group member, SHA prides to have learnt that such a collaboration has no hierarchy, we got our space for value-add and contributed positively as a member of a national thematic committee. We look forward to more impacts in the next anniversary for the whole team. As we know, our strength is in each individual member and the strength of each member is in the team.

Denis Mwenda Mutwiri, Insituto Pace Sviluppo Innovazione ACLI-IPSIA Kenya



Since we joined the network less than three months ago, we have enjoyed considerable benefits in terms of capacity building for our staff through the trainings and seminars organized by PELUM Kenya. Our team has drawn a lot of

inspiration and knowledge from these activities, including; The Entrepreneurship and value addition seminar, Upper Eastern Region Agro-ecology youth summit and Model gardens visit- Best practices on ecological agriculture and agribusiness enterprises to mention but a few, among many other invitations for many more.

IPSIA Kenya remains thankful for the opportunities that PELUM Kenya has offered our organization to learn, network and grow.

Dr. (Hon) Kenny Matampash, Executive Director - Neighbours Initiative Alliance



Neighbours Initiative Alliance has been a member of PELUM Kenya for many years. As an organization working with pastoralists and agro pastoralists, the community has benefited immensely from various activities undertaken by PELUM Kenya. Activities such as capacity building, agro enterprise development, exposure visits and trainings on organic agriculture, have helped our communities to realize that they too can work towards the betterment of their future by contributing to government policies which affect them as farmers.

As an organization we have also felt the impact of being members of the Network. Our staff have gone through various capacity building trainings which have enriched our skills and given us mileage when engaged in different platforms.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary, the journey should continue with a lot of emphasis on organic farming and its impact to our daily living and the lives of future generations.

Viva PELUM Kenya!!!

Message From Trans-Community Organization (TRANSCOM)

Since joining PELUM Kenya in 2017, TRANSCOM has fully enjoyed numerous benefits of being a member. PELUM Kenya has been instrumental in training our farmer groups on issues such as value addition. Additionally, PELUM Kenya has been organizing exchange visits so that farmers can learn from each other. The exchange visits serve as a powerful motivator for farmers as they are able to learn new experiences and gather information they couldn't have found at home.

Our farmer groups have also benefitted from tree seedlings, thanks to PELUM Kenya. An example is Evolver Youth Group, which was supported with fruit seedlings. The main purpose of this initiative is to create a fruit forest so as to provide affordable and easily available fruits to the community, and enhance nutritional security.

With support from PELUM Kenya, TRANSCOM staff have undergone a series of capacity building programs as well as, exposure visits and exchange programs that has enhanced improvement of service delivery.

PELUM Kenya has been very instrumental in linking MOs to the donor community both directly and indirectly.

Lucas Wadenya, Team Leader Support for Tropical Initiatives in Poverty Alleviation



The Silver Anniversary of PELUM Kenya is an opportunity to appreciate the founder members who envisioned and advanced their dream to reality. It is an opportunity to acknowledge that the

long lasting achievements are the results of combined efforts of every individual. As a new PELUMITE on board, I am happy to be part of PELUM Kenya's success.

Sr. Mary Mbacki, Executive director Caritas Nairobi



Congratulations to you for completing 25 years of dedicated service delivery to Community and PELUM member organizations. You have achieved tremendous growth and have built eminent goodwill in the community and Member Organizations. You have always tried to provide the best services to all stakeholder. Your services are always marvellous and appreciable. Through your platforms Caritas Nairobi has greatly increased its partnership and gained quality community based methodologies and strategies that will have a lasting positive impact to the people we serve. Once again Caritas Nairobi applauds your support and congratulations for your 25 years of service. We believe your organization will reach to new heights in the coming days.

Catherine Mwangi, Director- ADS MKE



On behalf of the Board of Directors and my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulating PELUM Association for attaining 25years of Community work. I know it has been a long journey, but I want to encourage

you and challenge you to do more in terms of programs and geographical scope. However, you have done us proud. Congratulations. We wish you every blessings and you move to the next level. Thank you for the partnership and enabling

us reach many more community members. Gods bless PELUM

**Daniel Kiambi
On behalf of RIDEP Team**



RIDEP Kenya proudly congratulates the PELUM Kenya team as the organization marks its 25th anniversary. Congratulations for the incredible services you have offered to this nation and the globe at large.

Long live PELUM Kenya. Keep it up!

John Kariuki, Coordinator- Slow Food Kenya



I would like to send my congratulations to PELUM - KENYA on your 25th anniversary. Slow Food Kenya joined PELUM Kenya in 2020 but the networks progress has always been an

inspiration and has acted a successful story that guides the young organization growth agenda. Slow Food is movement that believes in the power of networking in addressing the challenges facing the global food system. The contribution that PELUM - Kenya has made over the years in building capacity of MOs and enhancing networking cannot be underestimated. It has contributed a lot in amplifying agroecology and uplifting the lives of our small-scale farmers in different areas across the country. This once again reminds us that we are millions but they are giants. Climate Change and the current global crisis reminds us the need for increased networking because this is the only way that we can counter the forces of the global giants. We are proud to be members of PELUM Kenya and once again hongera.

Normita G. Ignacio, Executive Director; (SEARICE)

Our heartfelt congratulations to PELUM Kenya for its 25 years of service to smallholder farmers and for your great contributions in protecting the earth's resources for the current and future generations. Cheers to many more years of great work!

COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Pernilla Malmer, Senior Advisor at SwedBio, Stockholm Resilience Centre



I am honored to be part of such an important occasion as PELUM Kenya 25th Anniversary and Celebrations.

Indeed, the Convention on Biological Diversity, which comprises much of my work today, have the vision for 2050 on “People living in harmony with nature” – and that is what I feel also PELUM Kenya is part of striving towards!

My short and inspirational message to you envisioning the next 25 years of success, is inspired from the recent published Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2, which is a contribution from Indigenous peoples and local communities and their experiences of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: <https://lbo2.localbiodiversityoutlooks.net>

‘Overcoming dualism, separation and imbalances in relationships between humans and nature is central to addressing the biodiversity and health crises, including the rise of zoonotic diseases and pandemics. Sustained interactions and partnerships between sciences and indigenous and local knowledge systems—inclusive of women, men, elders and youth—are enriching contemporary problem-solving with holism and reciprocity.

Indigenous ways of knowing and being evoke and inspire new narratives and visions of culture and nature working together within a living and sacred Earth.

Indigenous peoples and local communities values, ways of life, knowledge, resource governance and management systems, economies and technologies have much to offer in reimagining diverse global systems that can deliver shared visions of solidarity, leaving no one behind’.

Wishing PELUM Kenya and all its network members continued success onwards.

Sara Elfstrand, SwedBio

Congratulations to PELUM Kenya on the 25th Anniversary from SwedBio! We have appreciated the partnership with PELUM Kenya over the

years and acknowledge the instrumental role of PELUM Kenya in the Agricultural Biodiversity Community. PELUM Kenya has been a key member of the global network and its Steering Committee, sharing its important experiences and knowledge and providing strategic guidance to advance the critically important work of promoting and sustaining agricultural biodiversity.

Teresa Gitonga, Kenya Programme Manager - ITF Ricardo Romero, Programmes Manager- ITF



Teresa Gitonga, Kenya Programme Manager - ITF

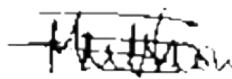


Ricardo Romero, Programmes Manager- ITF

We often take our accomplishments for granted, diminishing their significance as we quickly shift our attention towards striving for the next success. We want you to know how important this achievement is, and how proud we are of you.

On this significant occasion of the 25th PELUM anniversary, the team at the International Tree Foundation would like to extend its heartfelt congratulations, in particular to PELUM Kenya members, the Country Secretariat, the member organisations and the farmers who work with PELUM to promote participatory ecological land use management practices, for improved livelihoods among smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya. We hope PELUM Kenya reaches new heights in the coming days.

As Richard St Barbe Baker ITF founder wrote: “Be like a tree in pursuit of your cause. Stand firm, grip hard, thrust upward. Bend to the winds of heaven. And learn tranquility.”



Teresa Gitonga



Ricardo Romero

Janet Maro, Director- Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)

Warm greetings from SAT and congratulations to PELUM KENYA for 25 years. We are all inspired



Prof. Charles Ssekyewa, Chairman, EOA-I Eastern Africa Regional Steering Committee



On the occasion of 25 years of the PELUM's service to the African continent, I take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the East African Ecological Organic Agriculture Platform to you, PELUM Kenya. Since 2008, PELUM Kenya has been known to us, and we have jointly worked to catalyze the rapid growth of Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) in East Africa. In the regional EOA system, PELUM has been a key stakeholder whose actions and reactions have been very well aligned to realizing the Decision of Heads of States in Africa to implement EOA in the continent in order to inclusively improve livelihoods and achieve sustainable food security and nutrition. It is because of this unwavering effort of PELUM Kenya and associated stakeholders that EOA has gained ground in the region. I therefore call upon all stakeholders in East Africa to join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to PELUM Kenya. We pledge to continue supporting you to fasten and strengthen the participatory growth of EOA in East Africa. Congratulations!

Million Belay (PhD), General Coordinator - Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)



Congratulations PELUM Kenya on your 25th Anniversary. I have been following the extraordinary birth and growth of PELUM Kenya for the past 25 years and I can say that you have crossed a lot of miles; You are working with close to 3 million farmers, have pushed agroecology as the major narrative in Kenya, have increased the capacity of your members and have contributed to the national, regional and continental dialogue on the value of agroecology. Your monumental work on initiating and popularizing the African Leafy Vegetables project is a living testimony of your exemplary work. I am

by you and are cheering you on the Occasion of this jubilee. Keep up the good work, touching and changing lives.

sure you will do much more in the years to come and I wish you success in your future endeavors. You can count AFSA to be walking the path with you in your endeavor to change the lives of farmers and the environment for the better.

Sandra Mardigian, Director- Kilili Self Help Project



I first heard about PELUM Kenya 20 years ago, and have watched as it grew from its beginnings to the effective and influential organization it is today under the outstanding leadership of Mr. Zachary Makanya. On this 25th anniversary, my wish for PELUM Kenya is that it continues to be instrumental in the Ecological Agriculture movement that is now picking up momentum, for another 25 years of growth, contribution, and success.

Patrick Mulvany, Formerly ITDG's agricultural biodiversity champion and now with the Centre for Agroecology, UK



Well done, PELUM Kenya, for reaching this significant milestone. I've been privileged to accompany you, especially with Zachary Makanya as a knowledgeable guide. We've journeyed along many paths that started with ITDG's Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation project and Tharaka seed shows; PELUM's Regional Seeds programme; and, internationally, the CBD/COP in Nairobi where Moi recognized smallholders' and pastoralists' contributions to agricultural biodiversity (but didn't support a GMO ban!). As existential crises intensify, isn't PELUM Kenya's mission even more important - helping to defend and enhance, smallholders' bio diverse, nutritious, agro ecological, resilient, local food systems and to realize food sovereignty?

Congratulations, PELUM-Kenya, for your achievements over the last 25 years, and for all that you will accomplish!

Dr. Lucy Mathenge, UN Women



Congratulations to PELUM Kenya's leadership, secretariat, and members, for the great vision in transforming the livelihoods of many citizens through Agri innovate programmes. This has

contributed to the country's economic growth. Special thanks to Mr. Zachary Makanya for the commitment to food security and the passion for community development since 1998 when we worked together on Agriculture Biodiversity Conservation Project in Tharaka Nithi. He played a key role in facilitating conservation of 28 varieties of millet and sorghum in Maragwa, Tharaka Nithi County. Well Done PELUM!

Anne Maina, National Coordinator, BIBA Kenya



Once a PELUMITE, always a PELUMITE. I first interacted with PELUM Kenya in 2004 when I was invited for a GMO capacity building workshop at SACDEP Kenya campus. I was then working

as a Programme Assistant with the Centre for Governance and Development (CGD). This was my introduction to Biosafety and the campaign against GMOs in Kenya. I took up the mantle and have grown to become an Anti-GMO champion.

I did not know that this capacity building workshop would be the beginning of great work and interactions with the PELUM team. In 2006, I was privileged to join the PELUM Regional Desk in Lusaka, Zambia as a Regional Campaign, Advocacy and Lobbying Officer. I got a lot of encouragement from Mr. Makanya and his team in Kenya. Mr. Eliud Ngunjiri was then the PELUM Kenya Chairman and I will not forget how these two Elders blessed me before I left for Lusaka. Our interactions with PELUM Kenya continued over the years through the Senior Staff Meetings, regional workshops and even after I left PELUM RD and joined African Biodiversity Network and now as the Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (formerly KBioC) National Coordinator. PELUM has been instrumental in the development of BIBA; from hosting it until now when we are a fully-fledged organization.

Today as we celebrate the Silver Jubilee for PELUM Kenya, we thank God for the vision Mr. Makanya had by starting off as a desk coordinator and growing PELUM Kenya to where it has reached. May God Bless PELUM Kenya and keep us to see its Golden Jubilee!

John Macharia, National Coordinator - SCOPE Kenya



I have known and interacted with PELUM Kenya since 2005 when it was a young organization with only two members of staff. I have attended and benefited from several training workshops organized by the network.

The most outstanding one was on "Leadership and Organizational Governance" which was held at Nakuru in 2008. The knowledge that I gained from this training enabled me strengthen leadership and governance at SCOPE Kenya.

PELUM Kenya has hosted SCOPE Kenya since 2015. This gave me another opportunity to work, interact and learn more from the PELUM Kenya Team. Since then, I have worked closely with the secretariat, who have been very supportive. Their immense contribution and support has enabled SCOPE Kenya to grow and become what it is today!

As you celebrate 25 years of service, I join the rest of the members to wish you well and let you know that you are very important to SCOPE Kenya. Let us keep the bond and strengthen each other. Finally, I thank the PELUM Kenya Board of Management and staff for their support.

Wishing you success always. Long live PELUM Kenya!

M.Karthikeyan- Agricultural Biodiversity Community (ABC) Secretariat / Dhan Foundation



I fondly remember visiting PELUM Kenya twice for the annual meetings of ABC and impressed with its vision and engagement on various key development issues of smallholder farming communities.

Congratulations to PELUM Association and PELUM Kenya for achieving 25 years of service to smallholder farmers and its rich contributions for enhancing their wellbeing! Heartfelt appreciation for the commitment and contributions of PELUM Kenya team members and your enthusiastic leadership!

SUCCESS STORIES



SUCCESS STORIES

AN OASIS OF ORGANIC FARMING BY CREPP

Ruth Muga, 38 years of age is one of the successful farmers that have benefitted from the support of PELUM K under the Solar Water Pump project. She is married to John Omondi and they have been blessed with five children, Ruth hails from Ahero Location, Magina Sub location, karanda village. Before her engagement with CREP Programme, Ruth initially used to plant crops such as maize, beans and few vegetables as her main source of food and Income. Lack of proper knowledge on farming diversification and use of inappropriate farming techniques resulted in low yields hence low family Income.

She knew PELUM K when her group Ring Rach group was recruited as one of the groups to benefit from the PELUM K Solar water pump project. She says that is how she got to know the organizations activities. She says that her skills have been greatly improved through the trainings and exposure learning offered by PELUM K through CREPP. She says her farm is now a real model based on the knowledge gained and the solar water pump provided to their group that makes farming activities easier for them throughout the year. Ruth says "Nowadays there is no idleness in her village since the pump keeps them busy throughout the year".

Ruth bears testimonies to other farmers of how the trainings and water pump technology have taken her to higher standards of living. She confesses..... "I am no longer the same, my life has totally changed. I have realized that the destiny of a person lies within one's change of attitude, and personal commitment. "My tune has changed!.

She says that she has now understood the importance of diversification of agricultural enterprises. Her farm at the moment produces different types of crops which includes; hoho tomatoes, maize, different varieties of local vegetables, kales and sweet potatoes and she also keeps local poultry and improved dairy goats which her group was supported also by PELUM K. She says that the fertility of her farm has greatly improved through the application of animal and compost heap manure prepared using locally available materials. This has ultimately enhanced bumper farm produce, she can now sell different varieties of farm produce such as; hoho, tomatoes, butternuts, sweet potatoes, maize and local vegetables, kales in different seasons. She says her income is now guaranteed for the whole year she is no longer worried where to get the money for household expenses and school fees for her children.

Ruth sells her produce competitively at the farm gate and does not have to go to the market. This saves her the cost of transport and levies incurred at the market. In a day, she is able to sell vegetables of Kshs. 800. She uses part of her income to address family needs and also invest the remaining bit in the savings and loaning scheme.

Her future plan is to buy another piece of land for more production and her own solar water pump for irrigation purposes. This will enhance high economic base to be able to pay school fees

for her children up to higher levels of learning. "I am proud of PELUM K" They have caused a smile in our face, solar water pump ber kabisa" Says Ruth as she smiles.

PICTORIAL PRESENTATION OF ACTIVITIES ON RUTHS FARM



Ruth working on her farm. This is one of her farms with local vegetables and tomatoes. Left: She irrigates her farm using the solar water pump supported by PELUM K.



Photos showing Ruth's happiest moments receiving the rewards of her labour. A bucket of tomatoes fetches 1000/-while a bucket of vegetables fetches 300 sometimes 500 when there are no vegetables. The women in her farm are her clients who are plucking vegetables for themselves.

YARD; Reaping the Benefits of PELUM Kenya Membership

Our interaction with PELUM through the Network started over 13yrs ago when YARD became a member organization. In the 2007 - 2009 YARD benefitted directly from PELUM Kenya through winning a project on Scaling up Sustainable Agriculture for Livelihood (Susali II). Amongst the most significant change that took place as a result of the project, was the success of the local arrow roots value chain, in terms of increased demand and expansion of market, thus, more income for farmers.

Being a member Organization of PELUM Kenya many opportunities came about and one specifically through PELUM's Networks is when YARD got funded by Food Agriculture Organization (FAO Kenya).

YARD staff have also immensely benefitted through capacity building workshops that are organized and conducted by PELUM. Notably institutional strengthening through training on financial literacy for non-finance Managers have helped YARD improve greatly on efficiency funds utilization and management. Organization learning has been emphasized through member to member peer learning and project visits as well documentation of good learning practices and success stories. Working with the community has also come with its accolades; currently I serve as a board member at PELUM Kenya, SCOPE Kenya and as a Director of the New Kenya Planters Co-operative Union.



PELUM staff and YARD Staff during a visit to YARD



Caroline Mukeku former PELUM Staff and staff of YARD during financial capacity building visit



Patrick PELUM staff member with various group members under YARD during an exchange visit at Real Impact



PELUM Kenya Empowers Grassroots Organisations.

A story of PELUM Kenya encounter by TRANSCOM

Trans- community Organization is a local NGO which was dully registered in the year 2012, it is situated in Western Kenya, with the head offices located in Busia Town. TRANSCOM joined PELUM Kenya in the year 2017, and has fully enjoyed the benefits of being a member.

World Food Day (organic farming) Exhibition, 2017

This event was fully facilitated by PELUM Kenya. Member organizations participated in the planning include; ADS Western, BERMA and Trans-Community Organization. This activity placed Transcom in the county map as supporters of organic farming, the organization was awarded the Chairmanship to champion the production of Cassava within the county. The Ministry of Agriculture has always included Trans Community Leadership in its planning and implementation of activities. All this was made possible after hosting the World food day at Amukura. At the com-

munity level the organization received a lot of positive responses from individual farmers and new farmer groups who developed trust its leadership. The local radio stations have been very instrumental in broadcasting activities implemented by PELUM Kenya, through the Member Organizations. This opportunity has enabled Trans Community Organization to articulate the work we do to the community easily, and reach out to a bigger audience through the support of the PELUM Kenya.

Value addition: Farmer groups were trained on the importance of adding value to their product before taking them to the market for sale. Vaccata group has put the training into practice by up scaling value addition. One farmer who deals with herbal medicine has embarked on value addition.

Field visits and field days were planned and facilitated by PELUM Kenya which were very instrumental in empowering the Member Organizations and farmer. It has been a learning experience that has helped farmers exchange new ideas and get new insights, new farming ideas, market for their produce, learn on how to improve the soil quality using organic waste, max-

imum utilization of the land like inter-cropping and mixed farming.

PELUM Kenya has been very instrumental in linking MOs to the donor community both directly and indirectly. Through proposal writings, members get higher chances of accessing funds for being in partnership with PELUM Kenya. The support for close interaction with other MOs has helped in forming bigger networks.

The world Environment Day.

During the World Environment day, 2018, Transcom was given an opportunity by PELUM Kenya to plan for the occasion. PELUM Kenya provided resources that supported in facilitating some of the activities in the budget. The efforts were acknowledged by the Ministry of Water and Environment, through a letter of appreciation. Forest Officers were officially introduced to the Organization to support the farmer groups whose activities were related to the environment conservation. Vaccata Self Help Group is among those that have benefited from the relationship that was created during this period. The group was supported with certified seeds in 2019 that helped it to come up with a seed bed and the seedlings were shared among the group members. Every member of Vaccata planted trees, which was in line with the national theme of 'planting 5million trees in a year'. Some of the seedlings were sold to generate income for the farmers.

Evolver Youth Group in Teso south Sub County was with fruit seedlings, with the main target being to create a fruit forest so as to provide cheap and easily available fruits to the community, and take care of the nutrition aspect of the community. The group members have embraced

the project and it is an IGA for the group members.

Trans Community Staff Capacity Building,

The Transcom staff have undergone a series of capacity building sessions. Additionally, exposure visits and exchange programs have improved the level of service delivery in the organization; thanks to PELUM Kenya.

Reclamation of Kwemaa Wasteland; Changing Communities' Livelihoods; thanks to IFK and PELUM Kenya

Land degradation due to soil erosion, particularly gully erosion, is the main threat in most of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Kenya. Kwemaa village in Kilome sub county – Makueni County is one of the areas which have suffered from the effects of soil erosion, evidenced by big gullies and posing serious threats to the inhabitants. This community watched hopelessly as erosion ravaged their once useful land, rendering it wasteland. They had no idea how to save the land from immense destruction by runoff water which was forming gullies that were continuously widening and deepening in each rainy season. Their encounter with Inades Formation Kenya in 2019, gave came as a sigh of relief for them as they got an opportunity to share the challenges they were facing as a result of gulley erosion.

"We have lagged behind in terms of development, because our area is inaccessible. It has been difficult for government officers and other development agencies to reach out to us because of gullies that have rendered our land fragmented and inaccessible. We seem to have been forgotten. We cannot even access Kiu, which is



Vacata Nursery ready for planting, 2019



Vacata Self Help group members porting



Community members participate in Laying out the foundation for construction of gabions



Construction work in progress

our nearest market. Our children and even the elderly, still remain at a high risk of falling into gullies which can lead to serious injuries. Worse of all our troubles is that we are continuously losing our productive land. If you can support us solve this problem we will be the happiest community” said James Mutuku, chair, Kyeni kya Kwemaa.

IFK promised to support them to rehabilitate and reclaim their land by surveying the profile of the gullies, designing and constructing structures to stabilize the gullies. In this IFK did not only walk with the community but also sought the collaboration of PELUM Kenya. The community provided unskilled labour and locally available materials while IFK and PELUM Kenya offered technical support and construction materials (reinforcement bars, gabion boxes, cement and Binding wires).

The community is grateful to IFK and PELUM Kenya, for supporting them to reclaim their land. Nicholas, one of the community members says “ Thank you for the support, our environment looks better and we are no longer losing our land, we can access Kiu market with a lot of ease and within a short time. This structure has paved way for development in our village. Our area MCA visited this site and was impressed by the good work. For this reason, he supported us in construction of a dam to provide water for tree nurseries. Having seen the benefits, we are ready to improve our environment by planting trees and putting up more of these structures,”

Using the skills acquired from the construction of this gabion, the community has mobilized resources and constructed two more gabions; one to stabilize an existing gully and the other one in the dam to act as silt trap.



The gabions

Tenwek Success Story



Jonathan, Program Director- Tenwek hospital Community Health and Development (TCHD)

TCHD recognizes that local communities play a critical role in conservation of natural resources, hence has partnered with PELUM Kenya in Nature Based Enterprise. Through this program, target communities have been taken through capacity building, exposure learning and tailored trainings to enable them harness local skills and

entrepreneurship, while ensuring that the benefits are felt within the households and best practices are replicated by the entire community. Initiatives achieved through this program include Agro forestry, bee keeping, integrated farming, value addition, food forests among others.

TCHD congratulates PELUM Kenya as they celebrate 25 years of Existence. We are proud to be Pelumite and appreciate the partnership we have had with this great organization for the past three years, as one of the lead development agencies serving in the Southern Rift Valley. We look forward to continued partnership as we promote Ecological Land Use Management that will ensure sustainable food security.

About TCHD

TCHD is a department of Tenwek Hospital located in Bomet County in the Southern Rift Valley. The department was established in 1983 as an outreach arm of the hospital - a 300-bed facility that provides tertiary care to a population of approximately 800,000 people. The hospital also serves as a referral centre for a much larger region. It has a reputable College of Health Sciences that trains Kenya Registered Community Health Nurses (KRCHNs), and a chaplaincy training school.

TCHD has over the years transformed from a relief driven to an integrated Health and Development program focusing on improving the livelihoods of the local populations within the project area. TCHD's projects ranges from challenging the church for Holistic Ministry, Food Security and Nutrition, Maternal and child welfare, HIV prevention, orphan and vulnerable children assistance, pelvic floor disorder, agriculture in schools, WASH in schools and households.

TCHD has established itself as an agency that works in an open and transparent manner and has good reputation with its stakeholders which include local communities, churches, government departments as well as other agencies that work in the target areas; PELUM Kenya being one of the key partners among the development agencies in this region.



Kemei's son from Sonokwek self-help group (Group members not only practice but also inculcate the skills to their children)



Establishment of Kilanda Food Forest - Narok



Chingondi Food forest



Establishment of Set Kobor Food forest

Investing in Small- scale Farming the Way to Go by Busia Environmental Management Program (BERMA)

Managing Striga Weed through Push-Pull Method

In addition, western Kenya has a big challenge on striga weed which is a very destructive pest especially in maize farms. By attending the workshop on integrated pests and diseases management, I realized that striga weed can be managed using 'push-pull' farming method.

By employing push-pull method, maize farmers have tripled yields. They intercrop maize with plants that repel pests, support natural pest predators and suppress weeds. Desmodium is one of these plants. It is a nitrogen - fixing legume that is also used as fodder for livestock. In general, plants planted in this farming system help in reducing the use of synthetic pesticides and augment livestock feed, thus, providing families with additional milk and meat for consumption and sale.

Additional benefits include reduced run-off and soil erosion, enhanced soil fertility, improved food security and family nutrition, and increased household income.

Small-scale farming communities in western region have benefited a lot from this method as average maize production has increased from 3-4 to about 20 bags per acre.

Agro ecological farms retain 20 to 40 percent more top soil, have greater soil moisture content, less erosion, and had lower economic losses, compared to conventional plots.

I therefore, thank PELUM Kenya for the great work they are doing to Berma's small scale farming communities. May Almighty God continue giving you strength. Thank you PELUM Kenya Member Organizations for the great work on promoting the Agro ecological system of farming.



BERMA seed bank for storing indigenous seed. Thanks PELUM Kenya and BIBA- K for the support in its establishment



An indigenous maize farm while intercropping with desmodium. The crop is organically grown



BERMA seed bank for storing indigenous seed. Thanks PELUM Kenya and BIBA- K for the support in its establishment



Mrs. Bibiana Oduori, a BERMA farmer who was given an opportunity by PELUM Kenya to travel to India and Tanzania for a field visit on Organic Agriculture. She really appreciates that through PELUM Kenya, her life has been transformed through improved food security and income at household level



Mr. Keneth Ogola; "I really thank PELUM Kenya for organizing agroforestry workshop. I really benefited and as you can see, I have started implementing it at my farm to address the challenge of climate change."

Laikipia Permaculture Centre; Turning Laikipia into an Edible Green Paradise

Laikipia Permaculture Centre trust (LPCT) was founded in 2014 with an aim of teaching the local Pastoral community in Laikipia North Sub County, about Permaculture, land regeneration, and building using natural materials. LPCT has been working with these communities to manage invasive species; *Opuntia Stricta* and *Acacia reficiens*, which have colonized land leading to severe degradation. Women's groups have communal farms where they grow the *Aloe Secundiflora*, and export fresh Aloe leaves to International markets abroad as well as produce their own organic Cosmetics.

LPCT works with the women into vegetable, fruit cultivation, regenerative agroforestry and bee keeping. This diversity of products, grown sustainably using permaculture methods, is helping



Mr. Keneth Ogola; "I really thank PELUM Kenya for organizing agroforestry workshop. I really benefited and as you can see, I have started implementing it at my farm to address the challenge of climate change."

to regenerate the degraded land and increase food security in the community.

Since inception LPC has trained over 2,000 farmers on Permaculture who have been able to start their own Organic farms while conserving the environment.

The most tangible success story has been LPC's work with 700 women and 70 men from the local Maasai community. LPC has helped the women turn around their bare and degraded lands into fully integrated farms. The pastoral community is now able to have good food as opposed to the past where they survived on less than 7 meals a week. LPC has also worked with the groups to develop sustainable enterprises by making use of natural resources.

PELUM Kenya has been Instrumental in Supporting LPC

The PELUM Kenya upper eastern and northern Kenya zonal coordinator and LPC staff visited this area and trained the community on permaculture/agro-ecology and planted trees, grass and shrubs.

PELUM Kenya has also provided trainings for our field personnel on ELUM practices as well as office staff in various training programs relevant to our different departments, thus enhancing the capacity of the LPC staff to implement various programs.

We have also attended networking symposiums and managed to make meaningful networks with other PELUM members.

LPCT has actively participated in market events and gained exposure through exhibitions for our farmers organized by PELUM Kenya. Through these events, we showcase our products as well as those from our farmer groups.

LPCT has been able to get recognition of its work both locally and internationally

Our partnership with PELUM Kenya has come with a heap of lessons. We have learnt that it is possible to be in a network and work well without completion, complimenting each other. Together, we create more employment opportunities. Indeed, there is strength in unity.



H.E the Governor of Laikipia County during the Launch of our recent project dubbed Farming the Future.



2020 Green Action Week Campaigns by LPC through PELUM Kenya support



The farm of the same farmer group above located in one of the driest areas of Laikipia North

Success Story for Institute for Culture and Ecology (ICE)

Since our collaboration journey with PELUM Kenya commenced, several initiatives have been undertaken. These include tree planting activities, and livelihood improvement initiatives such as diversification of farm enterprises (benefitting small scale farmers), advocacy, capacity building workshops, resource mobilization, among many

others.

The most recent collaboration is under ICE Focus area; Food Sovereignty and Community Livelihoods, and Natural Resource Management. The livelihood improvement initiative under FOSELI project since 2017 aims at improving nutritional value, diversifying income and promoting energy conservation for small scale tea farmers.

During World Environmental day 2019, ICE partnered with PELUM, Uplands Community Forest Association and Mount Kenya University in a tree planting initiative at Uplands forest which is part of Aberdare ecosystem. During this campaign, a total of 2000 tree seedlings were planted in forest, community members' farms adjacent to and schools around the forest. This activity reached out to 353 beneficiaries.

Throughout the journey we have shared information, learnt from each other and greatly touched lives of community members. The impact felt is incomparable. Looking forward to more life changing collaborations with PELUM Kenya!



Mr. David Kuria, The CEC Environment and natural Resource watering a tree planted during WED event at uplands Forest on 7th June, 2019



FOSELI project beneficiary at her cabbage farm

Taita Hills: Rehabilitation Efforts Bearing Fruits by TTWF

Located 200 kilometres northwest of Mombasa, Taita Hills is one of Kenya’s water towers and a biodiversity hotspot. The hills are part of complex ecosystem made up of several forests, including Ngangao, Vuria, Iyale, Chawia and Mbololo among others. The densely forested hills are a source of key watersheds, including the 210 km long Voi river, which feeds into Aruba Dam in Tsavo East National Park for use by wildlife. These hills are also home to several small mammals, insects and rare birds’ species.

Illegal Logging, Bush clearing, causes Severe Degradation

However, years of illegal logging and uncontrolled bush clearing have resulted in severe degradation, reducing the forest cover and causing rivers to dry up. Community groups especially youth and women within farms which border the hills have come up strongly to advocate for the planting of both indigenous and fruit trees in all the degraded areas. As an additional requirement, individual group members maintain their own tree nurseries and are expected to plant trees to extend the forest cover from the hills to their farms.

As you move around the slopes of Chawia forest, you will come around groups such as Chawia youth group, Furaha Women Group and Kuzoya self-help group among others.

Butterfly Farming

Chawia youth groups specializes in butterfly farming and tree nursery establishment. With support from PELUM Kenya, the group took initiative to rehabilitate Maghombonyi; a water catchment within the forest. Having the idea of upscaling their enterprise they had to provide a conducive ecosystem for the butterflies to breed in large number. This is being achieved through planting of indigenous trees within the water catchment area and within the forest. Currently more than 1500 tree seedlings have been planted within the site.



Youths putting into practice what they learnt after the exposure visit by PELUM Kenya



Deforested Maghombonyi water Catchment Tree Planting exercise ongoing to rehabilitate the degraded site



Tree Planting exercise ongoing to rehabilitate the degraded site



Disseminating the knowledge gained on Agroforestry to Community members found within Chawia forest

G-BBIAK's Successful Journey with PELUM Kenya

The GROW BIOINTENSIVE Agriculture Centre of Kenya G-BLACK is a registered NGO, not-for-profit organization founded in 2008, with the goal of reducing extreme poverty and improving the living standards of resource poor communities by promoting ecologically viable development strategies for sustainable and quality livelihoods through concerted efforts.

G-BLACK's agricultural and vocational training programs provide rural and urban dwellers and their communities with opportunities to learn sustainable methods of living, as well as other solutions to the regional issues of food security, health, and poverty. An action-oriented, practical, and visionary organization, G-BLACK has already trained and empowered over 15,000 small holder farmers and their communities to raise their own food using highly productive, sustainable agriculture techniques.

In addition to its general training programs, G-BLACK provides separate programs to specifically help an often-marginalized group in the society: women and girls, including widows impoverished by the effects of HIV/AIDS in a program that provides hands on skills in different areas including, cloth making, beadwork, soap-making and general life skills.

G-BLACK joined the PELUM Kenya network in late 2009. 11 years down the line, G-BLACK has benefited a lot from the network. Members of staff have attended many capacity building workshops; from agricultural, environmental, financial management, gender-related workshops, among others. The staff have been attending workshops locally, regionally and internationally. The knowledge that we acquire from these workshops is then transferred to other people who may be require it, especially farmers.

Several international educational tours have been done through the PELUM Kenya network. The most notable one is where Samuel Nderitu and 8 other persons from different PELUM Kenya member organizations visited Navdanya foundation in India in 2011 to learn about seed saving and Agroecology. After returning back to Kenya, the first thing that we did was to establish a seed bank, collect, multiply the endangered seeds, and save them for distribution. Since then, we are doing massive work in seed saving and multiplication.

After 22 years of working with small holder farmers in Kenya and other African countries and acquiring a novel of experience in Agroecology, Nderitu, has been awarded an opportunity by PELUM Kenya to train agricultural extension officers from all its 57 member organizations in Agroecology. Additionally, he has been selected as one of the 7 master trainers of Ecological Organic Agriculture through a project known as Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture KCOA

Central Kenya's Second Poorest Community

Gatuanyaga community was once regarded as the second poorest community in central Kenya (2007 development report). In 2008 when we started working with the farmers in this community, food aid, free fertilizers and free seeds were guaranteed by the government because poverty index in the region was high and farmers would not be able to produce sufficient food due to high poverty rates.

G-BLACK started by helping farmers to replenish their soils using organic manures, planting leguminous crops and creating gardens using the organic GROW BIOINTENSIVE method. Farmers were taught on a farming system that is based on soil regeneration in deeply loosened, "double-dug" soils nourished by fertilizer from organic bio matter residue that is returned to the soil in the form of compost after harvest. This system allows Biointensive (close-spaced) planting which typically doubles the harvest in the first year, and increases it further over the next two or three years up to six times the original yields. This method includes additional techniques that enhance increase in production, such as diversifying crops, companion planting, carbon and calorie farming, integrated pest control, seed saving and the use of a whole system gardening.

Two years later, our farmers' collaborators were able to produce sufficient food for their families and extra for income generation. A year later, Food aid, free fertilizers and free seeds were stopped. The ministries of agriculture and the World Food Programme who were distributing food in the region were impressed by our work and G-BLACK was recognized and was awarded with the Certificate of the best NGO of the year in the region. We are happy that we helped this community to become food secure.



Farmers learning about companion planting



Gatunyaga farmers - the one Goat per family project



Practical learning is the best approach with the farmers

CSHEP Success Story

CSHEP is a registered Community based organization (CBO) focused on training small scale farmers especially women in Kajiado North, Kiambu County and peri-urban areas of Nairobi City. Our major goal is to induce farmers to use agro ecological farming methods to improve production and income, become food secure and safeguard the environment.

Aged 10 years, CSHEP, has benefited over 7000 farmers.

We train members of our community to become agro ecological farmers;

CSHEP conducts Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) inspection annually to ensure pro-

duce brought to the market is grown organically.

As CSHEP this has always been an ideal way of sharing knowledge among farmers.

Follow ups are important to CSHEP's work because they add value to the training farmers receive.

CSHEP has established two organic (farmers) market outlets, in Kiserian and in Nairobi at Garden estate. Both markets are active and run consistently on Fridays and Saturdays respectively. We also make food baskets for delivery to customer's homes.

CSHEP's demo garden has been in existence for the last 5 years now. The garden act as the main training venue where farmers are trained on various organic farming techniques The trainings are conducted both theoretically and practically.

CSHEP is proudly a member of PELUM Kenya since 2015, and has benefitted immensely by gaining experience and skills, according to the Founder/Director, Esther Kiruthi.

Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP-Kenya) joined PELUM-KENYA, in the year 2015, after a long time collaboration with PELUM member organizations whereby, we were introduced to the network. We got interested after attending a capacity building workshop with my colleague, which was so well organized. We gained great experience and skills. We decided to apply and were ratified at Thika during a PELUM Kenya AGM. This far, we are proud to be a member of the network. We've benefited a lot and we hope we have been of benefit to the network.

PELUM Kenya has been an essential part of our organization's journey and success. We are eternally grateful for the dedication and passion you have shown. Thank you for being with us. Happy Anniversary PELUM Kenya!



Exchange visits



Organic Market Days by CSHEP

ADSE; an Oasis in the Desert

About ADSE

Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE) is the development arm of the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), Dioceses of Machakos, Kitui, Makueni and Garrisa. The major role of ADSE is to improve the livelihoods of the rural communities through Community Based Programs. ADSE's works are based on six thematic areas that include Climate Change, WASH, Food Security, Governance Peace and Advocacy, Health & Nutrition and Institutional Development. A total of 15,475 tree seedlings have so far been planted from the established tree nurseries.



Josephine Muia, from Utumo Mutheke village in Kanthuni location, Mavindini ward, Kathonzweni Sub- location, Makueni County before ADSE intervention



Josephine Muia, from Utumo Mutheke village in Kanthuni location, Mavindini ward, Kathonzweni Sub- location, Makueni County after ADSE intervention

PELUM Kenya Supports Capacity Building

PELUM Kenya has helped us to capacity build staff members on ecological land use management. This knowledge is disseminated to the farmers at community level. A good example is the use of vertical bags which utilize space to maximize on land use and increase water efficiency.

To ensure communities' increased access to portable water, improved hygiene and sanitation, ADSE has constructed sand dams as water sources and provided schools with water tanks. Additionally, ADSE conducts hygiene trainings and sensitizes communities on maintenance of water structures. This has contributed towards reduced walking distance. The salvaged time is spent on doing other productive economic and social activities. There has been improved hygiene among the target beneficiaries. Their livestock too are able to access water daily, unlike before. Trainings on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) have been done to improve agricultural productivity.

The main challenge experienced by ADSE lack of enough funding, occasioned by a large catchment area.

How Access to Water is Improving Livelihoods

Magdalene Nduku John, 32, is a member of Maligni Kyeni Youth group, a vegetable growing group and is part of the large Mutwangombe Community Based Organization in Mwingi Central, Kitui County. Before ADSE's interventions, Magdalene used to live from hand to mouth as she could not practice farming due to low water levels and lack of equipment to enable her farm. Her household had to solely on the income from



Magdalene Nduku, farmer from Malioni village, Kathoka sub-location, Mutwangombe location,

charcoal burning and brick making. The intervention of sand dam across Kamunyu River improved the water table. Through ADSE in collaboration with PELUM Kenya and the Ministry of Agriculture, her group was trained on GAP and efficient water use for irrigation through demonstrations and field days.

Trained on Financial Literacy

She was trained on financial literacy and acquired a loan which enabled her to purchase a power generator and was linked with agro dealers for ease of access to farm inputs. Magdalene grows kales, tomatoes, sugarcane, spinach and cabbages. She earned Ksh80,000 from her maiden harvest. She now has a stable income and her household's livelihood has improved immensely.

"I am indebted to ADSE for the interventions its doing in the area. The organization is impacting on many lives," says Magdalene.

Drip Irrigation Enhances Water Use, Increases Yield by Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC), Kitale

Water scarcity is an increasingly significant issue in many parts of Kenya. Climate change, predictions of rising temperatures and decreased rainfall, is likely to result to more scarcity of water. Efficient water management is essential in addressing the demand for this resource. Small holder farmers' vulnerability to weather dynamics can be highly reduced through irrigation.

Seven years ago, Manor House Agricultural Centre, with Funding from PELUM Kenya estab-

lished, and has been running, an eighth - acre drip irrigation demonstration unit for purposes of training and producing vegetables throughout the year. The drip irrigation system was adopted because it reduces the impact of drought and climate change on food production through minimizing water use. It also avoids contamination of groundwater that may be caused by nutrient leaching and supports small scale rural farmers with low incomes who may not afford the cost of overhead irrigation.

The project's production records have shown tremendous benefits of drip irrigation over the years. These include;

Higher consistent quality yields - The yields obtained after drip irrigation increased by about 500 percent over the last seven years.

Crop Diversity - New crop species such as cucumbers have been produced successfully under drip irrigation.

Huge water saving as compared to overhead irrigation previously used - Water used for irrigation reduced by close to 400 percent as compared to the overhead irrigation system.

Increased (close to 100 percent) land utilization due to uniform irrigation of all plants, reduced labour and efficient supervision of the same.

Over the years, Manor House has also used the project to train Agricultural Extension Officers, farmers and students on the importance of drip irrigation system, as a climate smart agricultural intervention.

The area under drip irrigation has increased from an eighth acre in 2013 to one acre in 2017, while trained farmer groups that have shown interest in this system increased from 25 percent in 2013 to 85 percent in 2020. Such increase suggests that drip irrigation is acceptable to many small holder farmers.



A section of the farm fixed with drip irrigation system at MHAC

Grounding Organic Farming in the PELUM Kenya Network; the Story of GEOA

Over the last 25 years PELUM Kenya has grown from a membership base of 7 to 57 Member Organizations. The founder member organizations were SACDEP, Baraka, KIOF, Manor House Agriculture Centre, C-MAD, CREPP and RODI Kenya. They were part of the NGOs who purposed to promote Alternative Systems of Agriculture (ASA) as it was then difficult to differentiate it from conventional or Industrial agriculture which was championing the use of synthetic fertilizers, agro-chemicals and pesticides. The ASA systems included organic agriculture; permaculture; bio intensive agriculture, agroforestry, biodynamic agriculture and sustainable agriculture among other agro-ecological practices.

The GEOA Project; Building Capacity in the Area of Organic Farming

Over time however, the Secretariat realized that while some members still focused on promoting Ecological Land Use Management (ELUM), most of the members and particularly the newer ones, did not have adequate knowledge and skills to passionately promote ELUM practices and hence were not as passionate. This knowledge gap led to the birth of the Grounding Ecological Organic Agriculture (GEOA) project spreading in the period 2019/2020.

The Secretariat then embarked on a training need assessment that revealed the MOs with Low, moderate and high capacities in the area of Organic farming. The process assisted in designing GEOA project that targeted 52 MOs then, through 4 major workshops. Each of the Mo sent two staff and preferably youths of opposite gender.

We gladly appreciate SSNC for financially supporting this intervention. The beauty of the forums was that they were hosted by the MOs with high capacity and with abundant facilities

to carry out demonstrations. Says the M&E Officer, "These were the most practical workshops to be attended by MOs and Secretariat staff in the quest to promote Organic farming"

Great Achievements and Expectations met

The greatest Achievement the project was that all the targeted MOs have a minimum of two staff who serve as resident Resource Persons on matters of Organic farming and Agro ecology in broad. The training equipped them to a level where they shall be cascading the Agro ecology knowledge and skills as well as incorporate the same in future project designs. A rapid online evaluation on the project in July 2020 revealed massive outcome through the MOs. As a result of the GEOA workshops, Groups of SSF & P are utilizing the cascaded knowledge & skills. Pioneers in this utilization include TENWEK Hospital community Programme, Care Murang'a, MEAP among others.

The main lesson was that the MOs expectations of capacity building in the areas of Agroecology were progressively met. Feedback after every workshop revealed deeper interest in ELUM practices across the Network.

Possibility of Up-scaling

The Project targeted to build two staff per MO and all the Programme staff in the Secretariat through the four well spread Workshops. This could be up scaled to cover at least six Extension Officers per Organization with a component of supporting on-farm/ farmer schools' demonstrations at the Zonal levels.

To the PELUM Kenya family; Grounding Agro ecology in the Network is not an option but an obligation as anchored in PELUM Kenya's Vision and mission.

PELUM IN ACTION



The First Page of PELUM Kenya's First Visitors Book on 23rd November, 2002



A section of PELUM Kenya staff in their offices during a visit by PELUM Uganda Country Coordinator



Sign board; Agroecology demonstration site in Gatuanyaga, Thika in partnership with RODI



Sign post, Manor house farm orchard project in Kitale, in partnership with MHAC



Covid19 response to Counties with bean seeds, Self Help Africa



Janet Mumo (CEO KDC) visiting group members who have embraced raised garden as a way of dealing with solid waste and promoting indigenous vegetable production.



Pauline Muasya BIDII's CORP for Ngone Mwaitu Itumbule SHG in Kathonzweni Ward Makueni county at her farm where she utilizes sunken bed technology to produce kales, spinach, brinjals, capsicums, beans



SLA Livelihood improvement project- BIDII



Agro-forestry project by BIDII



Commemoration of Green Africa Week Livelihood improvement project



Group Exposure to a project by BIDII improvement project



Leaders from different parts of Machakos and Makueni during a networking forum, Katoloni CBO



Regina collaborating with other stakeholders from Makueni County, Katoloni CBO



Assorted Indigenous Tree Planting in Mariashoni Forest Station, Mau Forest led by Alexon Tobiko, Station Manager currently reporting over 90% survival rate



4th EAC Agriculture Summit at EAC Headquarters, Arusha



2016 Annual General Meeting at Hotel WaterBuck, Nakuru



2017 SACDEP farmer in Makuyu showing PELUM Kenya Team his Vermi Compost



2019 STAFF RETREAT AT MASAI LODGE-KAJIADO



A farmer demonstrating composting technic to participants during zonal exchange visit in Western zone



A farmer from CREPP showcasing her organic pumpkin 2018



A RODI farmer using minimal space to put up Kitchen garden



ABC Meeting Participants Visit ICE, a PELUM Kenya MO, 2017



Bee keeping learning session in Wundanyi 2020.



CEFA Kenya Mukindu diary Cooperative group receiving milk cans supported by PELUM Kenya



Children learning about organic products during zonal organic market forum in Upper Eastern Northern Kenya zone



CIM water harvesting



County Minister of Agriculture addressing the media during WFD event



EOAI Youth and Women Exposure and Exchange Learning visit in Arusha-Tanzania



Exchange visit at awasi - grafting of mango demonstration 2020



Exchange visit to Cheptebo - Kabarnet 2019



Farm manager at Manor Agriculture Centre talking about seeds to participants during National seed policy sensitization meeting



Farm manager tending to tree nurseries at CEFA Kenya



Field visit to Ti Kwenda Kwitu Women Group by KDC by German Parliamentarian Assistants, 2016



Seed saving baraza with Kithio Kya Mawithyululuko Women group, 2011



Staff team building - Bamburi Beach Hotel Mombasa



Students from Manor House Agriculture Centre during the Procession walk on WED, 2014

PELUM KENYA MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



CURRENT FUNDING PARTNERS





**PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LAND USE MANAGEMENT (PELUM)
ASSOCIATION - KENYA, KU Boma Estate, House No.114, along Kenyatta Road
Off Thika Super Highway, P. O. Box 6123-01000, Thika, Kenya
Telephone: +254 709 746 939, Email: pelumkenya@pelum.net**



PELLUM Kenya



@PELUM-Kenya



www.pelum.net