



PELUM KENYA 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING COMMUNIQUE
JULY, 15TH 2022
SPORTSVIEW HOTEL, KASARANI-NAIROBI KENYA

WE, 56 Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya Member Organizations working with small scale farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks in 42 counties, having met here today on 15th July, 2022 at Sports View Hotel Nairobi, for the network Annual General Meeting (AGM) hereby issue this call to action to the current and incoming National and County governments of Kenya and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

We are **concerned** that Kenya is not on track to achieve SDG 2 and Vision 2030 on “**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition**”. ¹The number of people in need of food assistance has increased from 3.5 million in May to 4.1 million in June 2022. Acute malnutrition has also been noted across the counties with 942,000 cases of children aged 6-59 months acutely malnourished and 134,000 cases of pregnant or lactating women acutely malnourished in need of treatment with 3.55% Livestock Mortalities².

Cognisant of the entangled global food crisis, high food and commodity prices, ongoing covid pandemic and the drought disaster, the level of hunger may worsen and therefore need for more sustainable livelihood interventions.

Acknowledging that food and nutrition security is not only a basic necessity but also a right as per article 43 (1) (c) of the 2010 Kenyan constitution, we hereby make this Call to Action to the incoming National and County governments and stakeholders in the agriculture and related sectors:

¹ NDMA Drought early warning bulleting , June 2022

² NDMA Drought early warning bulleting , June 2022

1. Call to Action # 1 Increased budgetary allocation to agriculture

Agriculture plays a fundamental role in ensuring the right to food for all, promoting employment and social stability. But investment in agriculture remains disappointingly low - less than 5% of the national budget. Moreover, the limited investment is largely dedicated to industrial agriculture. However, industrial agriculture with its green revolution narrative of increasing productivity is responsible for biodiversity loss, environmental pollution, climate change among other environmental related challenges.

RECALLING that our Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled in Maputo on 10-12 July 2003 where they committed to allocate 10% of the national resources to agriculture within five years under Assembly/AU/Decl.7 (II) Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa.

We therefore **URGE** the government (both National and County) to increase their agriculture budget allocations to 10% of the total budgets, as per the Maputo declaration with at least 5% dedicated to agroecological practices, including research and extension.

2. Call to Action # 2 Increasing investments and policy support for Agroecology

With a growing global focus on agroecology, the time is now for deliberate and increased financing, investments in agroecology for the health of its people and nation at large. We therefore **URGE** the National and County government to recognize and adopt agroecology as a means to transform the agri-food system by formulating and supporting agroecology policies. We also call upon all stakeholders to increase their investments and support to agroecology.

We further **URGE** the Government(s) to formulate agroecology policies and strategies and also mainstream agroecology in public policies, programs and investment plans while recognizing the expertise of small holder farmers as a repository of indigenous knowledge in seed breeding. This will enhance the resilience of small holder farmers, pastoralists and fisher folks to climate change.

3. Call to Action #3 Ban harmful agrochemicals

The high use of expensive agrochemicals, including synthetic fertilizers, is not only impoverishing farmers, it is literally killing them and the citizens who consume the resultant unsafe foods. Compounded with their unaffordability and long-term negative

effects on soils, calls for more sustainable agricultural inputs and promotion and adoption of agroecology practices. We **urge** all stakeholders to heighten awareness and education on the adverse effects of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers and promote trade and consumption of affordable organic and eco-friendly products by all. We further **URGE** the government to issue an immediate **BAN** on all harmful agrochemicals that have active ingredientssuchas; glyphosate2,4D,dimethioat,thiamethoxam,chlorothalonil,paraquat,p_{ermethrin},imadocoprid which have been banned elsewhere yet they are still finding their way into the Kenyan market.

4. **Call to Action # 4 Invest in water harvesting and conservation**

Realizing that climate change has affected all sectors and more so food production, we **call upon** the government and other stakeholders to prioritize water conservation and retention projects among farming communities that store run off water during the rainy season to be used during the drought seasons. It also needs to invest in more crop diversification programmes to help farmers adjust to the prolonged drought conditions. Doing this will enable farmers to continue producing despite the occurrence of extreme weather events. We realize that sustainable agriculture is dependent on water resources. We **urge** deliberate and concerted efforts towards conserving and maintaining our water resources through a participatory ecosystem-based approach.

5. **Call to Action #5 Conserve Genetic Resources and Promote Indigenous Seeds**

The COK 2010 Article 11(3)b: calls for the Parliament to enact legislations and recognize and protect the ownership of indigenous seeds and plant varieties, their genetic and diverse characteristics and their use by the communities of Kenya. Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) support between 70 – 100% of small-scale farmers in Kenya, yet existing seed laws developed in collusion with the private sector seed players do not recognize this fact and severely restrict farmers rights to sell their indigenous seeds. We **call for urgent** attention to the critical role that indigenous seeds play in promoting and conserving our genetic resources. We, therefore, **call** for enhanced recognition and protection of farmer-managed seed systems including through a review of and enacting of legislations that recognize and protect indigenous seeds as envisaged by the constitution. We also **call** for stricter adherence to the safeguards enshrined in the Convention on Biological Diversity and its expansion to regulate new bioengineered technologies including genome editing.

6. Call to Action#6: Agroecology inclusion in the presidential debate

In regard to the upcoming presidential debate, we urge the organizers i.e., the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Media Owners Association (MOA), the Kenya Editors Guild (KEG), and other stakeholders, to seek more concrete commitments from the aspirants, including owning up to previously bungling the agriculture sector and ensure the content of discussion is more about the socio-economic wellbeing of Kenyans alongside aspects environmental conservation through the agriculture sector.

7. Call to Action #7: County governments to employ and train extension workers

We hereby call the government to invest in more extension workers, and re-train them on agroecological principles. We urge a rethink of the extension policy which seeks to privatize extension provision to the profit-oriented input dealers/corporates.

ENDORSED HERE BY:

1. Agricultural Community Empowerment Program (ACEP)
2. Aid link
3. Anglican Development Services (ADS) Western
4. Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE)
5. Anglican Development Services Mt. Kenya East (ADS MKE)
6. Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)
7. Baraka Agricultural Centre (BAC)
8. Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDI)
9. Bio- Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)
10. Busia Environmental and Resource Management (BERMA)
11. Caritas Meru
12. CARITAS Nairobi
13. CARITAS- Nyahururu
14. Christian Impact Mission (CIM)
15. Community Action for Rural enhancement (CARE) Murang'a
16. Community Environmental Forest Action (CEFA)
17. Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD)
18. Community Mobilization Against Desertification (C-MAD)
19. Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Program (CREPP)
20. Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP)
21. Community Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Program (COSDEP)
22. Development in Gardening (DIG)
23. Dryland Natural Resource Centre (DNRC)
24. Effective IPM Alliance
25. Emayian Integrated Development Organization (EIDO)
26. Food for the Hungry Kenya (FH Kenya)
27. Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK)
28. Inades Formation Kenya (IFK)
29. Institute for Peace Development and Innovation (IPSIA)
30. Institute of Culture and Ecology (ICE)
31. Katoloni Mission CBO
32. Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF)
33. Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
34. Kitui Development Centre (KDC)
35. Laikipia Permaculture Centre(LPC)
36. Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP)
37. Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC)
38. Nainyoiye Community Development Organization (NCDO)
39. Neighbours Initiative Alliance (NIA)
40. Network for Eco farming in Africa (NECOFA)
41. Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)
42. Pastoralists Community Initiatives and Development Assistance (PACIDA)
43. Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) Kenya
44. Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP)
45. Seed Savers Network
46. Self Help Africa (SHA)
47. Slow food Convivia Association of Kenya (SFOCK)
48. Support for Tropical Initiatives in Poverty Alleviation (STIPA)
49. Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP)
50. Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resource Technologies (SMART) Initiatives
51. Taita Taveta Wildlife Foundation (TTWF)
52. Tenwek Hospital Community Health & Development
53. Trans- Community Organization (TRANSCOM)
54. Utooni Development Organization (UDO)
55. VI Agroforestry
56. Youth Acton for Rural Development (YARD)