



Networking for a greener Africa

## PELUM KENYA NETWORK CALL TO ACTION

JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

NAKURU KENYA

WE, Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya Network comprising of 60 Civil Society Organizations working with small scale farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks in 47 Counties in Kenya having gathered here in Nakuru to showcase our work on agroecology would like to issue this call to action.

First and foremost, we would like to appreciate the efforts by the government to integrate agroecology at National and County policy processes. We laud the progress made on the Draft National Agroecology strategy and also recognize the various Counties making efforts to develop and implement agroecology policies such as Murang'a County, Busia County, Tharaka Nithi County, Vihiga County, Kiambu County, Laikipia County, Kakamega County, Nakuru County and Makueni County. Favorable policy environment will go a long way in supporting the work of small-scale farmers in improving their livelihoods while protecting the environment.

While this is so, we would like to issue this call to action with urgent issues that need attention from various stakeholders.

### **CALL TO ACTION #1: STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN REVENUE GENERATION & THE RIGHT TO FOOD**

The smallholder farmer is the main farmer in Kenya constituting about 70% to 80% of the farming community. Further The agricultural sector is the backbone of the economy contributing over 31.3% to GDP and employing over 80% of Kenya's rural work force and providing more than 15.5% of formal employment (KNBS, 2018). We are glad to note the

very recent changes on the draft Finance Bill that now seeks to drop some tax proposals on agriculture and food commodities including; removal of VAT on bread, removal of sugar transportation VAT, receding of eTims from farmers with a turnover of below Ksh. 1 million. We laud these efforts and **call upon** the government to keep exploring alternative measures to ensure viability of small-scale farming and to support the right to food for every single Kenyan.

### **CALL TO ACTION #2: MAKE BIOLOGICAL FARM INPUTS AVAILABLE TO FARMERS**

COVID 19 pandemic impacts, the War in Ukraine compounded with climate change truly exposed the vulnerability, fragility and dependency of the food system in Kenya. We are concerned of the government over emphasize on mineral subsidized chemical fertilizers that have spread a cycle of dependency and contributed to soil acidity. Kenya having hosted the Africa Soil Health and Fertilizer summit in May 2024 showcased the great potential of biological inputs in enhancing soil health and food productivity.

We **Urge** the governments to also consider biological farm inputs as an alternative method to soil fertility management which also offers more benefits to farm health and the nutritional value of agricultural products than synthetic fertilizers and hence reduce dependency on imported fertilizers. This should include more extension support to farmers on biological inputs, offering a conducive business environment for SMEs in bio-input processing and balance in subsidy programmes integrating biological inputs which are safe to people and planet. We further urge the government to scale up locally relevant technologies and innovation for production of biological fertilizers and empower youth as entrepreneurs at community level. This will cushion the Country from unfortunate occurrences including the recent fake fertilizer scandal.

As a network we are willing to provide a platform for learning and experience sharing of the various biological farm inputs which have successfully been utilized by over One Million network farmers throughout the Country for years.

### **CALL ACTION #3: 15 BILLION TREES CAMPAIGN (NURTURE THE TREE)**



We applaud the government on the continued implementation of the African Landscape Restoration Initiative with the 15billion tree by 2032. As PELUM Kenya network we are committed to contribute to the initiative by planting 500 ,000 trees annually.

We **call upon** the government to extend the initiative from just planting tree but develop strategies to nurture, grow and care for the planted trees.

#### **CALL TO ACTION #4: ENHANCE DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTRY**

The recent March -May 2024 rains killed about 267 and displaced about 281,235people<sup>1</sup> and affected millions of smallholder farmers and pastoralists livelihoods. It further exposed the countries: failure to put in place timely national response plan, disaster unpreparedness, inadequate uptake and dissemination of weather forecasting, poor land use planning. We **URGE** the National and County government to:

- a) **UPHOLD** human rights obligation to prevent foreseeable harm from climate change and extreme weather events and to protect people when a disaster strikes.
- b) **IMPLEMENT** The Public Finance Management Act of 2023 which requires county governments to set aside 2 percent of their annual budgets for disaster response.
- c) **Enhance** ecosystem restorations to effectively halt and reverse degradation, improve ecosystem services and recover biodiversity

#### **CALL TO ACTION # 5: INVEST IN WATER HARVESTING AND CONSERVATION AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL**

Realizing that Agriculture in Kenya is largely (98%) rainfed and over 80% Arid and Semi-Arid Land thus extremely vulnerable to increasing temperatures, droughts, and floods. Notably, the contrast between flooding in rainy seasons and the famine that follows during drought calls for need for improved water harvesting and storage. We **call upon** the government to prioritize water harvesting and storage and create an initiative for adoption of simple solutions like water pans at household levels.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/kenya/kenya-heavy-rains-and-flooding-update-flash-update-5-10-may-2024>



## CALL TO ACTION #6: WOMEN AND YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

The average age of a farmer is that above 55 years in Kenya yet the biggest population is that of the youth. Youth participation all along the value chain is vital to the growth of the agriculture-based economies– from agricultural research and development, to food production, storage and handling, to agro-processing, through to marketing and distribution in local, regional and international food markets. Channeling the energy, strength, and dynamism of the youth into productive, competitive and profitable agribusinesses (including food production) will boost agricultural productivity, ensure sustainable food production system, create jobs, and generate incomes.

Gender inequality poses threats to ways of life, livelihoods, health, safety and security for women and girls around the world. Women and girls face particular vulnerabilities resulting from cultural norms and their lower socioeconomic status in society. Women's domestic roles often make them disproportionate users of natural resources such as water, firewood and forest products.

We **call for** urgent attention and strategies that enhance the active engagement of youth and women in agriculture and indeed adaptation and climate change discourse.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH**

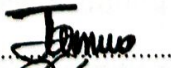



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Signed by PELUM Kenya Board of Directors

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#### ENDORSED HERE BY:

1. Action Africa Help International (AAH-I)
2. Agency for Cross Border Pastoralists Development (APaD)
3. Agriculture Community Empowerment Programme (ACEP)
4. Agriculture Improvement Support Services (AGRISS)
5. Aid link- Ireland
6. Anglican Development Services Eastern
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8. Anglican Development Services Western (ADSW)
9. Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)
10. Baraka Agricultural College (BAC)
11. Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDI)
12. Bio – Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)
13. Busia Environmental and Resource Management (BERMA)
14. CARITAS Meru
15. CARITAS Nairobi
16. CARITAS Nyahururu
17. CEFA-KENYA
18. Christian Impact Mission (CIM)
19. Community Action for Rural Enhancement (CARE), Murang'a
20. Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD)
21. Community Mobilization Against Desertification (C-MAD)
22. Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Program (CREPP)
23. Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP)
24. Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Program (COSDEP)
25. Development In Gardening (DIG)
26. Dryland Natural Resource Centre (DNRC)
27. Effective IPM Alliance (AIA)
28. FH Kenya
29. Grow Bio – Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK)
30. INADES Formation – Kenya (IFK)
31. Institute for Peace Development and Innovation (IPSIA) Meru
32. Institute of Culture and Ecology (ICE)
33. Katoloni Community Based Organization

34. Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF)

35. Kenya Organic Agricultural Network (KOAN)

36. Kitui Development Centre (KDC)

37. Laikipia Permaculture Centre (LPC)

38. Maendeleo Endelevu Action Programme  
(MEAP)

39. Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC)

40. Nainyoiye Community Development Organization  
(NCDO)

41. Neighbors Initiative Alliance (NIA)

42. Network for Eco farming in Africa (NECOFA)

43. Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)

44. Pastoralists Community Initiatives and  
Development Assistance (PACIDA)

45. Resources Oriented Development Initiative  
(RODI – Kenya)

46. Ripple Effect

47. Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP)

48. Self Help Africa (SHA)

49. Slow Food Convivia Association of Kenya  
(SFCAK)

50. Support for Tropical Initiatives (STIPA)

51. Sustainable Agriculture Community  
Development Program (SACDEP – Kenya)

52. Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural  
Resource Technologies (SMART) Initiatives

53. Strategies for Agro Pastoralist Development  
(SAPAD)

54. Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum (TTWF)

55. The mission of Tenwek Hospital Community  
Health & Development

56. Trans Community Organization (TRANSCOM)

57. Tharaka Children & Women Welfare  
Programme (TCWWP)

58. Utooni Development Organization (UDO)

59. Vi Agroforestry (VIAFP)

60. Youth Action for Rural Development (YARD)