

PELUM KENYA

Annual REPORT 2023



Networking for a greener Africa.



*Networking
for a greener
Africa*



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The report has been prepared with the support of:



**Swedish Society
for Nature Conservation**

**Brot
die Welt**

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya works with its Member Organizations to promote agroecological principles and practices through advocacy and policy influence, networking, capacity building, AgroEnterprise and market development and knowledge management.

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

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABN	African Biodiversity Network	LECZ	Lower Eastern and Coast Zone
AE	Agroecology	MEAP	Maendeleo Endelevu Action Programme
AFSA	Africa Food Sovereignty Alliance	MHAC	Manor House Agricultural Center
AGM	Annual General Meeting	MOs	Member Organizations
ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Land	NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
BAC	Baraka Agricultural College	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
BIBA	Biodiversity and Biosafety Association	NRM	Natural Resource Management
BIDII	Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives	PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
BIOGI	Bio Gardening Innovations	PENELI	Promoting elum and Networking for Livelihood Improvement
BROT	Bread for the World	PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
BvAT	Bio-vision Africa Trust	PSAMY	Promoting sustainable agriculture and Marketing through Youth Involvement
CBO	Community-Based Organization	RIDEP	Rural Initiatives Development Program
CEN	Capacity Enhancement and Networking	RODI	Resources Oriented Development Initiative
CEC	County Executive Committee	RSC	Regional Steering Committee
CFA	Community Forest Associations	SACDEP	Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Program
CIFORD	Community Initiatives for Rural Development	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
CLO	Country Lead Organization	SHG	Self Help Group
EOAI	Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative	SSNC	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	UNFCCC	United Nations framework convention on Climate Change
IEC	Information, Education, Communication	UENKZ	Upper Eastern and Northern Region Zone
ICIPE	International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology	WED	World Environment Day
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	WFD	World Food Day
IFK	INADES Formation Kenya	WRUA	Water Resource Users Association
ISFAA	Inter Sectoral Forum for Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity	ZC	Zonal Coordinator
KARLO	Kenya Agricultural Research and Livestock Organization		
KCOA	Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa		
KDC	Kitui Development Center		
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Organization		
KTDA	Kenya Tea Development Authority		

PELUM Kenya at a Glance

Vision Mission & Values



Vision

Empowered, prosperous, and healthy communities in Kenya.



Mission

To promote agroecological principles and practices through member organizations for Kenya's sustainable livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists communities.

Values

- Commitment to partnership, participation, and networking.
- Commitment to gender equity and social inclusion.
- Transparency and accountability.
- Quality service delivery.

Our Strategic Directions

1. Institutional strengthening, networking, and capacity development.
2. Policy Influence & Advocacy on Agroecological Practices.
3. Agro-enterprise and market development.
4. Climate Change Resilience and Natural Resource Management.
5. Women and youth inclusion in Agroecology.

About PELUM Kenya

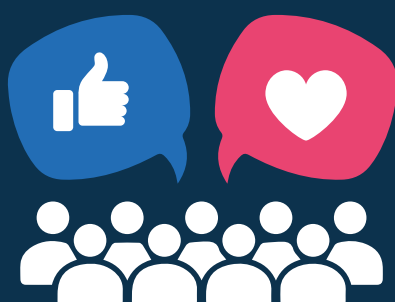
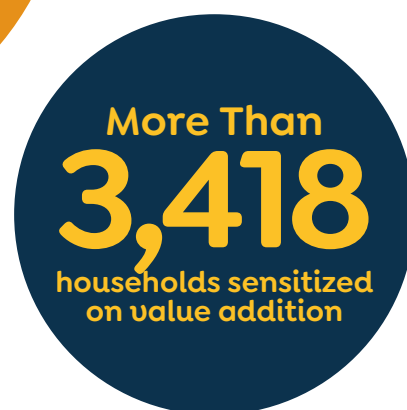
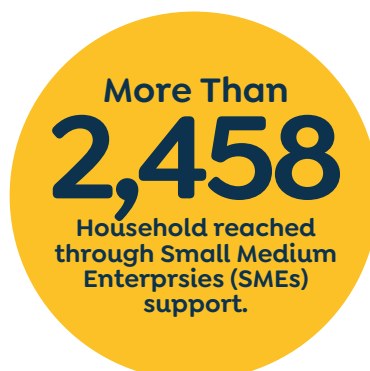
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network that currently comprises 60 Member Organizations (M.O.s). Its members mandate PELUM Kenya to promote agro-ecological principles and practices through networking and capacity building, AgroEnterprise and market development, information sharing, and advocacy

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 six networking zones: Nairobi/ Central zone, Upper Eastern & Northern Kenya zone, Lower Eastern & Coast zone, and Rift-Western Kenya zone. The Country secretariat is based in K.U. Boma Estate, House No.114, along Kenyatta Road, Off Thika Superhighway.

Principles that Guide PELUM Kenya Network

1. **Diversity.** Showcasing the diversity of Ecological Agricultural practices amongst members within and without the Network.
2. **Learning and Knowledge Management.** Enable learning for experiences and best practices sharing among members & other actors through networking with others.
3. **Membership.** Ensure that PELUM Kenya is a member-driven Network.
4. **Innovation.** Encourage and support innovativeness across the Network.
5. **Sustainable Ecosystem.** Always striving towards an ecosystem that is healthy and sustainable.
6. **Advocacy.** Advocate for Agricultural ecological issues in favour of small-scale farmers & pastoralists
7. **Inclusive Practices.** Promoting inclusive practices at all levels as the basis of ownership, empowerment, and sustainability.
8. **Participation.** Recognize participation as an enabling & empowering process (everybody's opinion matters, participation is drawn from the members, enhances ownership of the processes, has the strength of inclusiveness, and accommodates diverse opinions, gender, and social inclusion and involve the people going.

Summary of 2023 Key Achievements



Reached
187,215
Farmers through social
media enagement

PELUM Kenya Member Organizations

Member
PELUM Kenya

Nairobi and Central Zone

1. Action Africa Help International (AAH-I)
2. Aidlink
3. Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)
4. CARITAS Nairobi
5. Community Action for Rural Enhancement (CARE) Murang'a
6. Community Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Program (COSDEP)
7. Effective IPM Association
8. Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK)
9. Hand in Hand Eastern Africa (HiH EA)
10. Institute of Culture and Ecology (ICE)
11. Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
12. Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT)
13. Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)
14. Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) Kenya
15. Self Help Africa (SHA)
16. Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP)
17. Youth Action for Rural Development (YARD)

Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone

1. Anglican Development Services Mt. Kenya East (ADS MKE)
2. Caritas Meru
3. Caritas Nyahururu
4. Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD)
5. European Community for Agriculture Kithita Kirwa Water Project (CEFA- KKWP)
6. Food for Hungry Kenya (FH Kenya)
7. Institute for Peace Development and Innovation (IPSIA)
8. Laikipia Permaculture Centre (LPC)
9. Pastoralists Community Initiatives and Development Assistance (PACIDA)
10. Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP)
11. Strategies for Agro Pastoralist Development (SAPAD)
12. Tharaka Children & Women Welfare Programme (TCWWP)

Lower Eastern and Coast Zone

1. Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE)
2. Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDI)
3. Christian Impact Mission (CIM)
4. Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP)
5. Dryland Natural Resource Center (DNRC)
6. Inades Formation Kenya (IFK)
7. Katoloni Mission CBO
8. Kitui Development Center (KDC)
9. Neighbours Initiative Alliance (NIA)
10. Taita Taveta Wildlife Foundation (TTWF)
11. Utooni Development Organization (UDO)

Rift-Western Kenya Zone

1. Agency for Cross Border Pastoralists Development (APaD)
2. Agricultural Community Empowerment Program (ACEP)
3. Agriculture Improvement Support Services (AGRISS)
4. Anglican Development Services (ADS) Western
5. Baraka Agriculture College (BAC)
6. Bio-Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)
7. Community Mobilization Against Desertification (C-MAD)
8. Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Program (CREPP)
9. Development in Gardening DIG)
10. Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP)
11. Manor House Agricultural Center (MHAC)
12. Network for Eco farming in Africa (NECOFA)
13. Ripple Effect
14. Rural Energy and Food Security Organization (REFSO)
15. Slow Food Convivia Association of Kenya (SFCAK)
16. Support for Tropical Initiatives in Poverty Alleviation (STIPA)
17. Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resource Technologies (SMART) Initiatives
18. Tenwek Hospital Community Health & Development (TENWEK)
19. Trans-Community Organization (TRANSCOM)
20. VI Agroforestry (VIAP)

Message from the Chairperson

I am humbled to share with you PELUM Kenya's 2023 annual report for the very first time as the Chairperson of the Country Board of Directors. This report summarizes the key achievements of PELUM Kenya in the year 2023 in its endeavor of improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and pastoralists through agroecological principles and practices.

To begin with, it is worth noting that the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 7th July 2023 at Eastmark Hotel, Nakuru. The AGM was attended by 51 delegates. During the 2023 AGM, the Revised Constitution and Board manual were ratified. Through the revised constitution and board manual, the zonal networks were anchored in to the two governance documents. I am pleased to note that our network membership increased from 56 to 60 members in the year 2023 reaching to all 47 Counties in Kenya.

During the AGM, four board members retired namely: Mr. Collins Ochieng (former board chair) from Community Rehabilitation Environment Protection Programme (CREPP) also representing Nyanza Sub zone, Mr. David Mwangi from Manor House member representing the Western Kenya Sub Zone, Ms. Annsanto Muthoni from CEFA member representing the Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone and Ms. Ann Nashipae from EIPMA (former vice chair) representing Lower Eastern and Coastal Zone. The following were elected in; Ms. Janet Mumo from Kitui Development Centre (KDC) as the chairperson representing Lower Eastern and Coastal Zone, Ms. Olivia Nyaidho from Development in Gardening (DIG) representing Western Kenya Sub Zone, Ms. Rachael Mohmoh from Transcom representing Nyanza Sub Zone and Mr. Joseph Lentunyoi from Laikipia Permaculture Centre (LPC) representing Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone. Further, Mr. John Kariuki was elected in the position of the vice chair of the Country Board.

Please join me in appreciating the board members who retired for their selfless service and dedication to the network to ensure that the network meet its objectives and providing oversight to the secretariat. Most importantly, allow me to appreciate our former chairperson; Mr. Collins Ochieng for leading the network in the last 6 years effectively and efficiently ensuring that the needs of our members, communities, secretariat, stakeholders and our funding partners are met. Similarly, let us all welcome our new board members who are fully competent and come in with full experiences and expertise in Agroecology and Leadership in the PELUM Kenya network.

I would like to point out that the 2023 Country Working Group National Networking Symposium took place in Meru where 37 members participated. The event featured a competitive exhibition, where different Member Organizations showcased their innovations across two main categories; Agroecology and Value Addition. Laikipia Permaculture Center, Community Rehabilitation & Environmental Protection Programme (CREPP), and Strategies for Agro-Pastoralists Development (SAPAD) stood out clinching the top three spots in the



Janet Mumo
Chairperson
PELUM Kenya

Value Addition and Branding Display Category. In the Agroecology Exhibitor Category, the Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBI-ACK), Rural Development Initiative Programme (RIDEP) and Tharaka Children & Women Welfare Programme (TCWWP) emerged as top 3 winners respectively. Allow me to congratulate the winning members and also appreciate all the network members for the great work they continue to undertake.

The year 2023 was the mid-year of PELUM Kenya's strategic plan (2021-2025) and the network managed to undertake a midterm evaluation. The findings indicate that PELUM Kenya has been on the right trajectory regarding the implementation of interventions as envisaged in the Strategic Plan. The vision, mission, values, and organizational principles remain relevant to the work of the organization. It is further noted that implementation of the strategic objectives has effectively been implemented.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you that the total grants to PELUM Ken-

ya in the financial year ended 31st December 2023 increased steadily with 43.42% (From an annual income of Kes 167,489,080 In 2022 to Kes 240,206,973 in 2023). I hereby wish to congratulate PELUM Kenya Country Secretariat for their continued efforts in developing and strengthening the network. The programmes that were initiated / expanded included: Soil Protection and Rehabilitation Programme, Governance and Social Accountability for Livelihood Improvement (GSAILI) supported by VI Agroforestry, Transformational Agroecology Across Food, Land and Water Systems supported by CIFOR-ICRAF, Nature Positive Solutions for Shifting Agri-food Systems to More Resilient and Sustainable Pathways supported by International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Linking COP 28 UNFCCC Negotiations with Local Initiatives supported by Both Ends, Documenting Strengths and successes of Farmer Managed Seed Systems supported by Both Ends, Visibilizing for climate action in Eastern Africa supported by Africa Population Health Research Centre (APHRC) and Documentation

of agroecology policy development in Kenya supported by McKnight Foundation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members for their commitment dedication to this great network. I also want to thank all the Member Organizations for your commitment to networking for a greener Africa. I once again extend my sincere appreciation to the Country Secretariat staff led by Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, the Country Coordinator. Last but not least, special gratitude goes to PELUM Kenya funding and technical partners for their belief in us and their unwavering support. Without them, we would not be where we are now. Thank you for your steadfast support.

Enjoy the reading!



Janet Mumo
Chairperson
PELUM Kenya

PELUM Kenya

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ms. Janet Mumo
Program Director – Kitui
Development Centre (KDC)
Chairperson



Mr. John Kariuki
National Coordinator/
CEO Slow Food Kenya
Vice Chairperson



Ms. Rosinah Mbenya Country
Coordinator PELUM Kenya
Secretary



Mr. Sebastian Wambugu
CEO – Youth Action for Rural
Development (YARD).
Treasurer



Ms. Mercy Thurairara
Aidlink Executive Director, Girl
Child Network
Member

INCOMING BOARD MEMBER



Ms. Rachael MohMoh
Program Coordinator, Trans Commu-
nity Organization (TRANSCOM)
Member



Mr. Joseph Lentunyoi
Laikipia Permaculture Centre
(LPC)
Member



Ms. Olivia Nyaidho
Programs Director – Develop-
ment in Gardening (DIG)
Member

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER



Mr. Collins Othieno
Executive Director, Community Reha-
bilitation and Environment Protec-
tion Program (CREPP)
Chairperson



Mr. David Mwangi
Director – Manor House
Agriculture Center
Member



Ms. Annesanto Muthoni
Deputy Director – European Com-
munity for Agriculture- Kithita Kirwa
Water Project (CEFA- KKWP)
Member



Ms. Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator
PELUM Kenya

Message from the Country Coordinator

It is with great honour and privilege that I welcome you to read the summary of PELUM Kenya's 2023 achievements through this institutional annual report.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Mr. Collins Ochieng the outgoing board chairperson for his outstanding leadership and service for the past six years. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Collins demonstrated outstanding commitment, vision and guidance contributing to the growth and success of this great network. I thank and laud his exemplary leadership and wish him the very best in the future. I also take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the first ever female chairperson Ms. Janet Mumo for her well-deserved position as the new chair of the Country Board. Janet congratulations and count on my full support.

Our work during the year focused on our strategic plan (2021-2025) intervention areas namely advocacy and policy influencing, climate change adaptation, sustainable Natural Resources Management, Agro-entreprise and Market Development and; Gender and youth. Being the third year of the network strategic Plan (2021-2025), an external review and reflection of the strategic plan was undertaken. I am happy to inform you that PELUM Kenya is on the right trajectory and that the strategic vision, mission, principles and thematic areas are still relevant. As I reflect about the year 2023, am humbled to note a 43.45% increment in our annual financial income (From an annual income of Kes 167,489,080 In 2022 to Kes 240,272,587 in 2023). I laud the committed secretariat staff, the support from the Country Board and network members whose role has made the steady financial growth possible. We are glad to likewise have grown in our membership- from 57 members to 61 Members in 2023 all working to transform the livelihoods of the vulnerable small holder farmers.

During the year, PELUM Kenya received a special grant from GIZ on soil health and rehabilitation. Through the project, PELUM Kenya intensified our interventions on soil health as an agroecology principle.

We are delighted to have collaborated with the Ministry of Kenya through its Intersectoral Forum for Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity (ISFAA) in the development of the National agroecology strategy for Food Systems Transformation. This historic milestone is a step towards the right trajectory the support of small holder farmers and pastoralists. The National Agroecology Strategy is expected to be launched in July 2024 and thereafter embark on its implementation. Further, PELUM Kenya partnered with other likeminded partners to initiate the development of County Agroecological strategies in Vihiga, Laikipia and Makueni Counties. During the year, experiential visits by policy makers to successful agroecology sites was employed as an advocacy and policy influence strategy. At the global level, PELUM Kenya contributed to increased attention of agroecology as a climate resilient and adaptive farming practice at UNFCCC COP 28 where we made a virtual exhibition at COP 28 Kenya Pavilion Digital Exhibition through a short video clip on agroecology and soil health and on-farm water conservation. I am also glad to note that the network held its annual networking symposium in Meru where the Member Organizations showcased their work in agroecol-

ogy. LPCT, CREPP, SAPAD clinched the top three seats in the value addition category while GBIACK, RIDEP, TCWWP emerged winners under the agroecology category. Allow me to congratulate all the winners and indeed all the Member Organizations for the great work they are doing.

In its Climate resilience and sustainable natural resources management area, PELUM Kenya supported rehabilitation of Gatare and Uplands Forests where 5,870 indigenous tree seedlings were planted in the forest, 500 bamboos on riparian land and 10 kgs of seedballs of various tree species donated by Seedball Kenya were dispersed in the forest to enhance natural regeneration. Also, we contributed to the review and launch of the uplands Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) and Forest Management Agreement (FMA) spearheaded by ICE Kenya. The documents will guide the community members on the conservation efforts in collaboration with Kenya Forest Services (KFS). Five farmer groups were also supported to establish water pans and agroecology demonstration gardens in 2023 through IWAMA DIFE Project. In collaboration with INADES formation, PELUM Kenya supported the first Lower Mwitasyano Water Resources Users Association (WRUA) multi-stakeholder forum to bring together WRUAs and CFAs together with other stakehold-

ers to develop a common understanding of the WRUA mandates and activities and identify areas of working together ensuring coordinated efforts and build synergies.

In the women and youth thematic area, PELUM Kenya sustained its women in agroecology leadership work through its AWOLA initiative that saw the first cohort graduate. To add, our PSAMY youth initiative continued to take shape with the first ever physical exchange between Kenya and Zimbabwe taking place. In Kenya, the youth participants were attached to our members MHAC, LPCT, GBIACK, SACDEP and Slow Food Kenya where they exchanged their knowledge on sustainable agriculture marketing models. Further, zonal level youth caravans were held with an aim of promoting biocultural conservation.

Under knowledge management, PELUM Kenya together with Master Trainers (MT)s and multipliers organized eighteen (18) farmer-level trainings on Organic Agriculture practices and principles in nine (9) counties: Uasin Gishu, Vihiga, Kericho, Laikipia, Nakuru, Kakamega, Murang'a, Kiambu and Machakos Counties. Twenty (20) Knowledge Products were also reviewed and 12 validated for upload to the KCOA digital platform.

Featured in this report for the first time are success stories including; "How an exposure visit for farmers led to an established local organic market", "a community led initiative to combat illegal sand harvesting", "Nature Positive Solutions transforming agrifood systems" and "the inspiring story of Oyamo Widows group". Please take your time and read these captivating change stories.

Finally, we are grateful to have won the chairpersons commendation trophy for the second time in a row during the Agriculture Society of Kenya show.

I now take this golden opportunity to thank our funding partners, our Member Organizations, the secretariat staff, the board and the Almighty God for the successes of this great network. Live long PELUM Kenya. We look forward to 2024 and the years to come with determination and hope for better and greater wins.

Enjoy the reading.



Ms. Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator
PELUM Kenya

Meet the **PELUM Kenya** Secretariat Team



Manei Naanyu
Head of Programmes



Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator



Ndiki Ndung'u
Head of Finance and
Administration



Geoffrey Kahuho
Senior Programme Office
(Capacity Enhancement
and Networking)



Edward Muiruri
Programme Officer
(Agro enterprise and
Marketing)



Alice Kariuki
Senior Finance
Officer



Mary Irungu
Programme Officer
(Advocacy)



Irene Nyaega
Administrative &
HR Officer



Roland Mwalugha
Driver/Mechanic



George Foro
Driver



Ngunjiri Kihoro
Zonal Coordinator (Lower
Eastern and Coast Zone)

Meet the **PELUM Kenya** Secretariat Team

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Sarah Wambui
Zonal Coordinator
(Nairobi and Central
Kenya Zone)



Benson Isohe
Zonal Coordinator
(Upper Eastern and Northern
Kenya Zone)



Beth Omae
Zonal Coordinator
(Rift, Western Kenya
Zone)



Sharon Achieng
Finance Officer



Susan Kimani
Office Attendant



Bathseba Ratemo
Programme Officer
(Knowledge Hub and
Communications)



Michael Muriithi
Security Guard



Joseph Chokera
Security Guard



Diana Mwangi
M&E Officer



Monica Nyaga
Programme Officer (Gender,
Youth & Advocacy)



Matthew Muendo
Programme Officer
(EOA - Regional Coordinator)



Mr. George Mwabu

Programme Coordinator

Tharaka Children and Women Welfare Programme (TCWWP)

Message from **Tharaka Children and Women Welfare Programme (TCWWP)**

It is our honour as the Tharaka Children and Women Welfare Programme (TCWWP) to be part of the 2023 PELUM Kenya Annual Report.

TCWWP is a registered Indigenous Community-Based Organization based in Marimanti, Tharaka Nithi County, dedicated to working with children, youths, and women. For over fifteen years, we have been at the forefront of empowering these groups, established in response to community needs to combat the mushrooming slums of Marimanti town and its environs. Our efforts focus on ensuring that orphans and vulnerable children access basic needs by empowering the women who serve as their guardians. Many of these orphans have lost parents to HIV/AIDS and other terminal diseases, while others are victims of family conflicts due to extreme poverty, retrogressive cultural practices, and gender-based violence. Currently, TCWWP supports 278 extremely needy children, with over 40% being total orphans, alongside a similar number of women who act as their guardians and caregivers. We also work with 10 community groups mobilized, organized, and empowered to drive the development agenda in their localities. Additionally, we support mentally challenged children in two schools and hearing-impaired children in another two schools.

Our community training center in Kamatungu, Marimanti, features conference facilities, a community library, workshops, and a demonstration farm.

Vision: An empowered, prosperous, gender-equal society embracing children as the community's potential.

Mission: To bridge the gap between poor and vulnerable children and those from well-off backgrounds by creating access to basic needs within their locality.

General Objective: To improve access to quality education while considering water, food, health, environment, and child development as enhancing factors in the community.

TCWWP has been a proud member of the PELUM Kenya network since 2022. Being a network member has allowed us to learn, share, and network with other organizations. We have also been able to link up with partners who have increased the utilization of our community training center. In 2023, as a sub-grantee under PENELI IV, we facilitated the establishment of the Tharaka Community Dryland Knowledge Hub (TCDKHE). This center has not only been pivotal in community training but also an eye-opener and a source of income for our organization's sustainability.

I take this opportunity to appreciate and congratulate the PELUM Kenya network for its milestones in 2023 and wish them continued success in the coming years.



Message from VI Agroforestry

Vi Agroforestry is a Swedish development organisation fighting poverty and climate change together. Our mission is to fight poverty and climate change – together. We achieve this by empowering smallholder farmer families socially and economically, building their resilience while enhancing biodiversity and climate change mitigation through sustainable agricultural land management, including agroforestry.

Vi Agroforestry is both a partner and a member of PELUM Kenya. As a technical partner, PELUM Kenya has played a crucial role in helping us fulfill our mission. Their expertise and support have been invaluable in advancing our goals and making a positive impact on the communities we serve. This has been achieved through advocacy interventions to address issues that are pertinent to our smallholder farmers. They engage our core partners who are primarily farmer organizations to identify and prioritize advocacy issues and empower them to subsequently engage policymakers to address the issues raised. In the past year, among the significant issues identified were the need for better budget allocation for sustainable agriculture land management and the development of a standardized unit of measure for banana marketing in the counties where their programs were implemented. PELUM Kenya provided essential support in advancing these issues, facilitating policy research, dialogues, proposal drafting, and engaging with policymakers.

Additionally, Vi Agroforestry, through PELUM Kenya, played a pivotal role in advancing the dialogue on the development of the draft National Agroforestry Strategy for Kenya. PELUM Kenya led this process, with comprehensive policy research to identify existing gaps, stakeholder workshops and dialogues, culminating in the establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising representatives from civil society,

government, and the private sector. This group drafted the Kenya National Agroforestry Strategy which is now awaiting validation by the government before it can be formally approved and adopted.

Vi Agroforestry and PELUM Kenya have also been actively involved in policy dialogues concerning various regulations, including the Food Crops Regulations (2019), the Livestock Bill (2021), the Mung Beans Bill (2020), and the Irish Potato Regulations (2019). The primary aim of these dialogues was to highlight and address aspects of these regulations that might not be favourable to smallholder farmers. In addition, PELUM supported farmer organizations to participate in county-level policy dialogues, such as those regarding the Climate Change Bills of the Bungoma and Siaya County Governments, further emphasizing their commitment to supporting sustainable and equitable agricultural policies.

Vi Agroforestry is fortunate to be both a member and a partner of PELUM Kenya, benefiting from shared synergies and learning opportunities. Thank you for being a steadfast partner, always responsive and quick to offer tangible and innovative solutions to our farmers needs. We wish you all the best in your efforts to promote agroecological principles and practices among smallholder farmers, and pastoralist communities in Kenya. Your commitment to agroecology, climate change resilience, and agroforestry is truly commendable, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative journey.



Dorcas Munyua
Country Manager-Kenya
Vi Agroforestry

1. Promoting Elum for Networking and Livelihood Improvement (PENELI) IV

Goal: To contribute towards resilient livelihoods through sustainable agricultural and environmental practices among smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

Objectives:

- To strengthen the PELUM Kenya network to advocate for the integration of Agroecology in policy as an effective strategy for food security and resilience building;
- To enhance Agro-enterprise initiatives among SHF & Pastoralists for increased household incomes and adoption of Agroecological practices;
- To enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation;
- The governance, management, and operations of PELUM Kenya Network institutions are functioning and delivering services effectively.
- To establish and Strengthen Coordinated Multi-stakeholder Platforms for EOA Institutions at Regional and National Levels with resolute actions in agricultural and environmental policies and practices

Key expected results:

- PELUM Kenya MOs actively advocate for the integration of agroecology as a strategy for food security and resilience building in the National and County agricultural sector and other related sectors policies;
- Agro-enterprise initiatives among SHF/Pastoralists adopting agroecological practices are successfully linked to markets;
- SHF and pastoralists have adopted practices that are climate resilient and counter environmental degradation; and
- The governance, management, and operations of PELUM Kenya network institutions are functioning and delivering services effectively.

2. Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative in Africa (EOA-I)

Goal: To create a vibrant ecological organic system for enhanced food security and sustainable development in Africa.

Objectives:

To increase support for ecological organic agriculture in the national production systems within the Eastern Africa region.

Key expected results:

- Ecological organic research is mainstreamed into the national agricultural research system.
- EOA curricula are established and implemented in agriculture institutions at all levels and sectors.
- It has improved extension systems responsive to 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 the promotion of EOA influenced
- Improved institutional capacity and coordination of EOA initiative actors.

3. Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa (KCOA- KHEA) Project

Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project is in its second phase of implementation for the 2nd Phase (1st June 2022- 31st May 2024). KHEA Project Phase II is part of the initiative by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through its executing agency GIZ to support a network of regional knowledge hubs for organic farming in Africa. Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT) is the lead coordinating agency of the project in Eastern Africa with co-hosting arrangement with Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Uganda.

The project is based on four main action fields namely:

- Collecting / preparing of knowledge in organic agriculture:** Validated technical and methodological knowledge for the promotion of organic agriculture, including processing, is prepared for the context of the participating countries and stakeholder groups.
- Dissemination of knowledge to many users:** Validated knowledge, strategies and good practices in the field of organic agriculture, adapted to the contexts of the countries participating in the regional knowledge hubs, are disseminated to various target user groups.
- Networking within agricultural value chains:** Key actors in the organic agriculture value chains of the participating countries in the three regions are networked in an exemplary manner for replication.
- Advocacy & Policy, Collaborate and partner with other EOA stakeholders to lobby and advocate for EOA policies at country level.**

4. Global Green Action Week Project (2023)

Goal: To Create awareness among the indigenous value chain players and the general farming community on the superiority of indigenous foods over the fast foods.

Objectives:

- To create awareness of the importance of indigenous seeds/farmer-managed seeds, local vegetables, herbs, and spices
- To promote and teach the culture of community sharing to sustainably produce and multiply indigenous/farmers-managed seeds
- To improve interactive networking among Member Organizations (M.O.s), producers, marketers, and consumers

5. Integrated Watershed Management for Diverse Farming Enterprises (IWAMA-DIFE II)

IWAMA-DIFE II is a 2-year project which is an extension of a two-year phase of the IWAMA-DIFE I project that ended in 2021. In its 2nd phase, the project aims at conserving the Aberdare's watershed through watershed management practices such as reforestation, agro-forestry, water-harvesting, improved land use practices by farmers as well as influencing reforms and policies in favour of agroecology.

The project envisions healthy ecosystems and people and improved livelihoods for the smallholder farmers which will be achieved through inspiring multi-stakeholders and building synergy to work towards climate-resilient ecosystems and mainstream Agro-ecological practices in the Aberdare's watershed. The implementation of activities is guided by eight principles from which activities are derived.

6. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Marketing through Youth Involvement (PSAMY)

Goal: The project aims at increasing youth participation in sustainable agriculture and agricultural market value chains through knowledge and cultural exchanges between Kenyan and Zimbabwean youth.

The focus will be the Kenyan youth exchanging their expertise on sustainable agriculture while the Zimbabwe youth will be exchanging their expertise on agricultural value chain and marketing.

Expected Results

1. Participants have strengthened their capacity to dissemination knowledge and skills on Sustainable agriculture
2. Participants have strengthened their leadership skills and capacity to disseminate knowledge and skills on formation of market Association
3. Small holder farmers in Mashonaland Central province (Mt Darwin and Bindura) Zimbabwe with increased knowledge and skills on sustainable agriculture practices
4. Small holder Farmers in PELUM Kenya network Increase their knowledge on value chain based marketing strategies for increased income from agriculture produce
5. PELUM Kenya and FACHIG staff increase capacity in identified gap areas

7. Policies for Agroecology in Kenya (PAK)

Goal: The sustainability of food systems in Kenya and beyond is increased through coherent policies and favourable institutional frameworks that enable food systems transformation.

Objectives:

- Horizontal (across sectors) and vertical (across scales) policy coherence in Kenya is increased resulting in enhanced support for agroecology and
- Food system actors in Kenya have increasingly equitable agency in policy development processes. Attainment of these outcomes will be aided by 3 key outputs, which include: multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) at County and national levels established or strengthened, Enhanced coordination and information flow across sectors (e.g., agriculture, environment, health, economy) and scales on food system related policy processes and small-scale farmers,
- Women and youth groups are empowered and capacitated on effective engagement in policy processes

8. Governance for Social Accountability for Livelihood Improvement (GSAILI)

Goal: To improve communities' livelihoods through enhanced governance and social accountability.

Objectives:

- Strengthened citizen engagement in water governance;
- Increased implementation of National and County government plans and budgets on sustainable agriculture and climate action;
- Enhanced community voices in climate action plans and budgeting;
- Agroforestry and sustainable agriculture policy are adopted and implemented at local and global levels to enhance attainment of the right to food

Key expected results:

- Strong communities in water governance
- Improved implementation of plans and budgets on sustainable agriculture and climate action
- Strong Community voices in climate justice
- Strong agroforestry and sustainable agriculture practices to attain food rights

9. Inclusive and Enabling Policies for Agroecology

Goal: To contribute to an inclusive and enabling policies environment for agroecology in Kenya.

Objectives:

- Formation of a Multistakeholder platform (MSP) in Makueni County
- Advocacy for recognition and support of Farmer Managed Seed systems
- Advocacy for increased budget allocation for agroecology.
- Establishment of a vibrant and youth movement on agroecology

Key expected results:

- Food system actors have inclusive and equitable action in the policy process;
- Enabling policy environment for farmers managed seed system to thrive
- Increased agroecological programs and projects supported by national and local government, CSOS, donors and private sector;
- Increased participation of women and youth in policy spaces;

10. Global Advocacy Programme

Objectives:

To contribute to the mainstreaming of EOA programmes in the public policies, plans, investments and strategies at the East Africa level by the year 2024.

Key expected results:

- Integration and alignment of agroecology in the regional governments policies, plans and investments in the agriculture sector

11. Africa Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA) Initiative

AWOLA (Africa Women Leaders in Agroecology) Initiative is a leadership career development initiative of the consortium of PELUM Kenya, PELUM Uganda and PELUM Zimbabwe to equip women working on agroecology, sustainable agriculture and food systems with leadership skills.

Goal: To ensure that there is a growing trend towards the number of women in leadership positions in various agroecology institutions.

Vision: African women leaders proactively advancing Agroecology.

Mission: To enhance the effectiveness of African women in promoting Agroecology through leadership development and movement building.

12. Agroecology (AE) Hub Project

Goal: An Agroecology (AE) hub that provides tangible and consistent value to a diverse, inclusive Hub CoP whose members contribute to AE transformation for smallholder farmers.

Objectives:

- To Provide demand-driven, evidence-based information about relevant AE practices
- To have Farmers who are using AE practices that are successful in their context
- To bridge gaps between AE science, movement and practice actors
- To have in place local partners who are prepared to assume Hub leadership at the end of the grant cycle

During the year 2023, the project PELUM Kenya worked closely with the AE Hub key officers to undertake field visits, a participatory planning session and two workshops to strengthen the capacities of the targeted IGA-Groups. Further Farmer Research Network (FRN) was set up for upscaling in the Western Kenya Region.

Key expected results:

- Young entrepreneurs and women are coached on Circular bioeconomy (CBE) models and supported to set up Small and Medium Enterprises (SME)s
- Co-design localized Circular bioeconomy (CBE) business models in selected sites

13. Agroecology Initiative

The “Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land, and Water Systems” Initiative (AE-I) is one of 32 initiatives of the One CGIAR. The AE-I is implemented by seven CGIAR entities alongside CIRAD and CIFOR-ICRAF under the auspices of the Transformative Partnership Platform on Agroecology (‘Agroecology TPP’). The overall objective of the AE-I is that contextually relevant agroecological principles will be applied by farmers and communities across a wide range of contexts and supported by other food system actors by 2024. The initiative has five main work packages through which it aims to achieve its overall

Objectives:

- Transdisciplinary co-creation of innovations (beyond practices) in Agroecological Living Labs (ALLs)
- Evidence-based assessments that enable comparison of benefits and trade-offs between ‘business-as-usual’ and agroecological alternatives across ALLs.
- Development of inclusive business models and financing strategies in the ALLs
- Strengthening the policy and institutional enabling environment
- Understanding and influencing behaviour change

14. Nature-positive Solutions (NPS) for Shifting Agrifood Systems to More Resilient and Sustainable Pathways

Goal: NPS recycling solutions are used more effectively by women- and youth-led SMEs to generate increased resources (both natural and financial) that benefit poor farming households in rural areas and contribute to GHG emission reduction.

15. Conserving Bio-cultural diversity through community and Eco systems resilience

Objectives:

- Establish/strengthen community seed research groups to document on seed and biodiversity.
- Provide mentorship ToT to train 10 country trainers on seeds.
- To influence policy, communicate and share community ecological governance practice in promotion of sustainable use of bio-cultural diversity and ecosystem services.

16. Strengthened resilience of farming systems through integration of agroecology for livelihood improvement of smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya

Goal: To increase the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists through agroecology for improved food security and livelihoods.

Objectives:

- Enhanced adoption of agroecological knowledge and practices among smallholder farmers and pastoralists.
- Improved resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists on the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.
- Enhanced agro-enterprise initiatives among small holder farmers and pastoralists for increased household incomes.
- Strengthened leadership and participation of women, youth and the PLWDs in agroecological practices and policy development processes.
- Enhanced integration of agroecology in policies as an effective strategy for food security and resilience building.



PELUM Kenya Members/Delegates issuing a communique to the press during the 2023 Agroecology Symposium in Meru

Institutional Strengthening, networking, and Capacity Development

PELUM Kenya is a vibrant, member-driven network comprising 60 member organizations spread across 47 counties in Kenya. The network recognizes the importance of enhancing member capacity in agroecological practices through training, information exchange, and on-site support. By focusing on institutional strengthening, networking, and capacity development, PELUM Kenya aims to foster an environment conducive to the adoption of agroecology. This approach facilitates knowledge sharing, skills development, and confidence-building among farmers and stakeholders, ultimately leading to the establishment of sustainable, resilient, and equitable food systems that positively impact the lives of Kenyans.

PELUM Kenya Annual General Meeting (AGM)

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting held at the East Mark Hotel in Nakuru, PELUM Kenya, together with its Member Organizations, launched a powerful Call to Action aimed at shaking up the agricultural sector. Addressing national and county governments as well as key players in agriculture and related fields, PELUM presented an ambitious

11-point agenda designed to revolutionize farming practices and policy frameworks in Kenya.

Their manifesto includes pressing demands such as moving away from excessive taxation in agriculture, urgently transitioning to biological farm inputs, and increasing budget allocations to agriculture. The group also calls for a robust legal framework to uphold the constitutional Right to Food, a ban on harmful agrochem-

icals, and significant investment in water harvesting at the household level. Further points emphasize the need for enhanced public participation in policy-making, conservation of genetic resources, promotion of indigenous seeds, and the adoption of agroecology to combat climate change. Special attention is also given to empowering women and youth in agriculture, recognizing their vital role in the sector's future.

This decisive list of actions from PELUM Kenya challenges stakeholders to commit to meaningful, sustainable change, ensuring a healthier, more equitable agricultural landscape for generations to come.

2023 Networking symposium

On November 3rd, 2023, the PELUM Kenya Country Working Group (CWG) and symposium took place in Meru, drawing an enthusiastic crowd that included 37 members and a total of 61 participants. The event featured a competitive exhibition, where 13 member organizations

showcased their innovations across two main categories: Agroecology and Value Addition. The Laikipia Permaculture Center, Community Rehabilitation & Environmental Protection Programme (CREPP), and Strategies for Agro-Pastoralists Development (SAPAD) stood out, clinching the top three spots in the Value Addition and Branding Display Category. Meanwhile, in the Agroecology Exhibitor Category, the Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK), Rural Development Initiative Programme (RIDEP), and Tharaka Children & Women Welfare Programme (TCWWP) emerged as winners.



PELUM Kenya Members/Delegates issuing a communique to the press during the 2023 Agroecology Symposium in Meru



RIDEP showcasing their exhibition products at the Agroecology Symposium in Meru.

2nd Indigenous Seeds and Food Culture Fair



A month earlier, from October 11th to 12th, 2023, the Indigenous Seeds and Food Culture Fair, held at the National Museum of Kenya, brought together key organizations like BIBA Kenya, NMK, ISFAA, CIAT, PELUM Kenya, and ABN members. The fair was a celebration of agroecology with over 40 civil society organizations participating. The event attracted a significant number of attendees, with 307 individuals participating on the first day and 342 on the second. A variety of themes were discussed, including Agro Ecology for Climate Resilience and Digital Agriculture, with a special session by the African Women Leaders in Agro Ecology (AWOLA) to commemorate the International Day for the Girl Child. The competitions awarded individuals in the Agroecology/Seed Exhibition and Cookery categories, with GBIACK and SAPAD being notable winners.v

Farmer Research Network (FRN) and Agroecology Workshop

From November 29 to December 1, 2023, PELUM Kenya, in partnership with GBIACK, hosted a comprehensive three-day workshop centered on Soil Health/Soil Fertility and Agroecological Practices. The workshop was attended by 33 Training of Trainers (ToTs)/Extension staff from Member Organizations, consisting of 15 males and 18 females, including 15 youths.

The training delivered an in-depth introduction to Agroecology, including detailed discussions on soil types, fertility enhancement techniques, bioferments, biostimulants, and biofertilizers. Participants also engaged in practical activities such as soil sampling and soil testing. To ensure the dissemination of the acquired knowledge, the ToTs developed action plans at the conclusion of the workshop. These plans are aimed at spreading crucial agroecological practices and soil health information to farmers and fellow ToTs/Extension staff, thereby multiplying the impact of the training throughout the community.



- 1** Practical session on checking for living organisms in soils during the Soil Health Workshop at GBIACK
- 2** Practical session on collecting soil samples
- 3** Practical session on making Bokashi

Boosting Expertise: Strengthening the Backbone of Ecological Organic Agriculture Partners

In a concerted effort to enhance the proficiency and impact of those at the forefront of the ecological organic agriculture (EOA) movement, several capacity-building initiatives were rolled out in 2023. Key organizations involved in implementing EOA projects, including Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs) and Country Lead Organizations (CLOs), saw significant enhancements in areas critical to their success such as project planning, implementation, reporting, communications, monitoring, and evaluation.

These strategic educational initiatives are pivotal in empowering those leading the EOA agenda, ensuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to drive sustainable agricultural transformations across the region.



M&E training for CLOs and PIPs staff held in Nairobi, July 2023

Strengthening Ecological Organic Agriculture: PELUM Kenya's Monitoring and Evaluation Efforts



EOA Farmer, Mr Welmera Woreda trained by ISD to farm organic cabbage and supply to Addis City, Ethiopia which the demand for organic produce is growing.

In 2023, PELUM Kenya embarked on a series of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) visits to various Country Lead Organizations (CLOs) and Pillar Implementing Partners (PIPs), pivotal in driving the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOAI) forward. Supported by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), these visits aimed to assess the progress and effectiveness of EOAI activities across different regions.

Notable evaluations included a visit by PELUM Kenya's MERL Programme Officer to SACDEP on November 17th and a comprehensive review conducted at the Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD) in Ethiopia from November 27th to December 1st, overseen by the POMERL and the EOA-I Regional Coordinator.

The findings from these visits were

encouraging, revealing significant progress across all four pillars of EOAI activities. These organizations have not only advanced their projects but have also fostered essential collaborations with government entities and key stakeholders, underscoring the growing impact and integration of ecological organic agriculture practices within local and regional frameworks.

Group photo with Sofia Farmers after farmer level training. The climax of the training was each group to grow a tree



Photo Speak Networking Collaborations & Partnership Building



Country Board Members and management team during a meeting at Maxland Hotel, Juja



Country Board Members during a board meeting at Luke Hotel, Nairobi



Courtesy visit by Vi Agroforestry



Courtesy visit to Makueni CECM and Agriculture Directors by the Country Coordinator and EOAI Coordinator



Field visit to CREPP in the company of Elise of Both ENDS



Field visit to CREPP in the company of Elise of Both ENDS



Courtesy visit by Dr. Chege of Premier Peak Leadership Foundation



Courtesy visit to ALIN by the Country Coordinator and Nairobi & Central Zonal Coordinator



Courtesy visit by Ekologie Forte team



Membership assessment of DR Congo chapter by Country Coordinator and the Regional Association

Photo Speak Networking Collaborations & Partnership Building



PELUM Kenya staff during a staff meeting at Rainbow Hotel, Ruiru



Visit by Laura of GLS Germany



PELUM Kenya staff and member at the 5th Africa Organic Conference Exhibitors



Visit to ACEP by Both ENDS visitor Elise



Visit to ACEP by Both ENDS visitor Elise



Incoming and outgoing Country Board members during a handover meeting



Visit to CARITAS Meru by the Country Board members



Learning visit to PELUM Uganda by Head of Finance



Visit to EIPMA demo farm by GIZ representative, Florian

Photo Speak Networking Collaborations & Partnership Building



PELUM Kenya MOs pose for a photo during the networking symposium



Visit to SAPAD offices by Country Coordinator and other members



Visit to PELUM Kenya office plot by BfW visitor Eva



FACHIG Trust from Zimbabwe Monitoring visit to PSAMY Participants



Courtesy visit by PELUM Kenya staff to CIFORD in Meru



Visit to COSDEP in the company of Hans of Biovision Foundation



Visit to OACK Organic Depot by Agroecology Fund visitors



Visit to OACK Organic Depot by Agroecology Fund visitors



Visit to RIDEP farmers by Country Coordinator



Visit to SAPAD offices by Country Coordinator and other members



Visit to TCWWP by Country Coordinator



Florian visit to Kenya as GIZ representative (Left: Visit to EIPMA Demonstration Centre and Right: Visit to PELUM Kenya Offices)

Policy Influence and Advocacy on Agroecological Practices

Existing agricultural and environmental policies largely favour conventional farming over agroecological practices, which are more sustainable and eco-friendlier. This approach not only leads to environmental damage but also contributes to health issues. Unfortunately, most extension officers are also not supportive of agroecology, which in turn discourages farmers from adopting these practices.

Furthermore, women and youths face significant barriers in terms of land ownership, control, and access, which are crucial for agricultural production. This lack of access to arable land results in low productivity, reduced income, and underutilization of resources. Moreover, communities have limited participation in the budget-making process, leading to insufficient allocation of resources for agricultural and environmental projects. Both at the national and county levels, the allocation of funds for these critical sectors falls short of the recommended benchmarks, despite agriculture's significant contribution to the GDP.

To address these challenges, there is a pressing need for advocacy and lobbying efforts to integrate agroecology into policy frameworks and development plans at both county and national levels. PELUM Kenya aims to champion the implementation of policies that promote and scale up agroecological practices for a more sustainable agricultural future.



Advancing Ecological Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa

The Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) is driving change across Africa with the ambitious goal of integrating ecological organic agriculture into national agricultural systems, policies, and programs by 2025. This continental initiative aims to enhance agricultural productivity, food security, market access, and sustainable development throughout the region.

PELUM Kenya, as the host for the EOA-I Eastern African Regional Secretariat, played a pivotal role in 2023 by organizing two Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meetings and one regional stakeholder assembly in April and October. These forums have been crucial in advancing the EOA agenda at national and regional levels, facilitating strategic decisions and action plans. Key outcomes in-

cluded the nomination of government representatives from Rwanda, Tanzania, and Burundi to the RSC, engagement with governments to incorporate EOA into their policies, and active participation in significant events like the African Organic Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

Further efforts include planning for future stakeholder platforms, main-

taining regular communication with agriculture ministries, and fostering collaboration across various sectors to promote the EOA framework. The initiative also saw enhanced representation and inclusivity with four new members elected to the RSC, representing organic certification bodies, academic institutions, the private sector, and organic champions, thereby strengthening the initiative's impact and reach.



EOA Regional Assembly held in Nairobi



Group photos of RSC meetings held at Kasarani, Nairobi in April 2023, and in Kampala Uganda in October 2023

Expanding Horizons: PELUM Kenya Advocates for Ecological Organic Agriculture

PELUM Kenya's involvement in pivotal forums like the BIOFACH Organic Trade Fair in Germany (14-17 February 2023) and the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference in Nairobi (21-24 March 2023) underscores its commitment to promoting the Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) agenda globally. Participation in BIOFACH enabled essential learning, networking, and advocacy for setting up regional organic trade fairs. Meanwhile, the Nairobi conference was a melting pot of ideas, bringing together various stakeholders to share knowledge and strategies on agroecology. These gatherings not only enhanced the regional EOA strategy but also reinforced PELUM Kenya's role in championing sustainable agriculture across East Africa.



PELUM Kenya staff (Matthew Muendo & Edward Muiruri), and EAC representative networking at BIOFACH Organic Trade Fair in Germany 2023



EOA focal person at EAC Mr. Fahari Marwa (second left) during a brief meeting at PELUM Kenya

Fostering Ecological Organic Agriculture in East Africa: PELUM Kenya's Strategic Moves

PELUM Kenya is taking significant strides towards integrating Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) across the East African Community (EAC). In a pivotal consultation meeting, PELUM representatives met with Mr. Fahari Marwa from the EAC Secretariat to discuss the adoption of EOA and the collaborative development of a regional agroecology strategy. This meeting set the stage for a comprehensive stakeholder workshop planned for 2024, aiming to unite key players from EAC member states. The workshop is designed to champion the mainstreaming of EOA practices into the public policies, strategies, and plans of the region, marking a critical step toward sustainable agricultural practices in East Africa.

Advancing Organic Agriculture: Highlights from the 5th Africa Organic Conference in Kigali

The 5th Africa Organic Conference, held in Kigali, Rwanda from December 12th to 15th, 2023, served as a critical platform for advancing organic agriculture across the continent. Under the theme “Strengthening Resilient and Sustainable Food Systems in Africa Through Organic Agriculture,” the event facilitated by the EOA-I Regional Secretariat saw significant participation from five RSC members and the EOAI Coordinator. The conference was a hub of robust stakeholder networking, engaging policymakers, sharing pivotal information, and evaluating the development of the organic sector in Africa. Discussions focused on improving policies and increasing investments to bolster the growth and sustainability of the organic agriculture sector, aiming to transform food systems across Africa.



Group photo of key EOA stakeholders during the 5TH AOC, Kigali Rwanda in December 2023

Engagement forum with the National Assembly Committee for Agriculture

In February 2023, the National Assembly Committee for Agriculture invited PELUM Kenya to present issues raised against the lift of the ban on GMOs, following the public outcry on the implication of GMOs to the society. PELUM Kenya had earlier issued a press statement on the lift of the ban raising concerns on effect

to environment, farmers seeds and fears of health implications.

PELUM Kenya prepared a memorandum and presented in a stakeholders' forum on GMOs. However, no feedback has been shared by the committee. There has been no change after the presentation of

memorandum. Actually, the Law society of Kenya and other partners, had challenged the government in Court on the lift of the ban on GMOs.

However, in October 2023, the Environment and land court ruled in favour of government, citing lack of evidence on GMOs impact on environment and health.



Pelum Kenya Support to Agroecology Policies Formulation

Shaping the Future: Drafting the National Agroecology and Food System Transformation Strategy



A significant step towards sustainable agriculture was taken as the draft National Agroecology Strategy (NAS) was reviewed by the Sector Working Agriculture Group on Policy Legislation and Standards (SWAG_PLS). In a move that underscores a broader vision, the strategy was aptly renamed to “National Agroecology and Food System Transformation Strategy.” This pivotal document, now approved by SWAG members, is set to undergo county-level stakeholder consultations after integrating suggested amendments.

Spanning across forty-three counties, these consultations have gathered crucial inputs and recommendations, reflecting a collective vision for the 2024-2033 strategy. The insights from these diverse regions will be meticulously reviewed, and a detailed report is slated to be presented back to SWAG-PLS in 2024. This collaborative effort marks a promising journey towards transforming agricultural practices and food systems across the nation.

Following the visioning workshop held in December 2022, a core technical review committee for National Agroecology Strategy was formed. The purpose of the committee is to work closely with the consultant and provide technical backstop for the formulation of the strategy. The committee members are drawn



from Ministry of Agriculture, Environment, Health, CSO, County Governments and Research Institutions.

The committee with the leadership of ISFAA met several times to review the zero draft of NAS and came up with 1st draft of NAS which was presented to Agroecology Stakeholders.

National Agroecology Strategy Core technical committee members, during a review meeting in Mombasa



Left: National Agroecology Strategy County stakeholder consultation forum in Machakos



Right: National Agroecology Strategy County stakeholder consultation forum in Kisumu

Vihiga County Agroecology Policy formulation

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with Alliance for Bioversity CIAT spearheaded the formulation of Vihiga County Agroecology policy. During the year 2023, the draft policy was reviewed and ready for public consultations.

Laikipia County agroecology strategy formulation initiated

PELUM Kenya held an engagement meeting with Vihiga County agriculture department leaders and CASS-COM. An agroecology and agrobiodiversity sensitization forum were later held. The County government of Laikipia later had a resolution to develop an agroecology strategy to enhance food and nutrition security and enhance climate adaptation.



Hon. Dennis Kasoo, CECM Agriculture Laikipia County giving opening remarks during the agroecology and agrobiodiversity forum



Multi Stakeholder Platform Coordination

Busia and Vihiga County Agriculture MSPs

PELUM Kenya facilitated Busia Climate Change and Agriculture MSP. In 2023, PELUM supported Busia County Agriculture Investors forum, CASSCOM meetings and a reflection forum. The fora aimed at integrating agroecology in the county Ward Based Agriculture Revitalization Agenda.

In addition, PELUM Kenya in collaboration with Alliance for Bioversity CIAT held Vihiga Agroecology MSP reflection forum. Members reflected on the key learnings from the learning visit to Murang'a. The following resolutions were made: Conduct quarterly meetings for feedback, undertake intercounty benchmarking, hold joint county field days, trade fairs/ exhibitions and Resource mobilization

building training on GMOs and exposure and learning visit at GERRI. participants acquired knowledge on the use of national collections and develop strategies that enhance crop diversity, genetic resource long term conservation, active use of collections and seed bank management.

ISFAA, PELUM Kenya, Biodiversity and Biosafety Association (BiBA) and other partners strengthened their collaborations with the seed saving communities, stakeholders and the

National Gene bank for easing access to genetic resources for multiplication. Participants understood the National Gene bank operations, such as, safety duplication, monitoring of seed quality and quantity and back up in comparison to Ethiopian Gene bank. Participants developed a strategy to facilitate access to seed and knowledge to farmers as well as influence policy; catalyze and support the review of the National seed policy.



Participants during the visit at GERRI

Biosafety Seed Sovereignty and GMOs TWG

The Intersectoral Forum on Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology (ISFAA) Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Biosafety, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Seed Sovereignty in collaboration with Seed Savers Network developed and submitted a memorandum on the vegetative Propagated Seeds (VPS) regulation. The key recommendation was on recognition of the Farmer Managed Seeds System (FMSS). On 27th and 28th September 2023, ISFAA Biosafety Seed Sovereignty and GMOs TWG carried out a capacity

Kenya Agriculture policymakers benchmarking and learning visit to Uganda

Ten (10) policymakers drawn from the National and County governments were facilitated for a benchmarking, learning, and exchange visit to Uganda. The benchmarking and learnings to Uganda were to catalyse the policy and legislative development and integration of agroecological approaches in Kenya. The actors involved were: PELUM Ken-

ya, PELUM Uganda, representatives from Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, Uganda Marty University, farmers, Kenya representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Busia, Vihiga and Makueni Counties representative, ISFAA and a representative from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT)



Left: Representative from County government/ministry of Agriculture Kenya, ISFAA, and Academia pose for a photo outside St Jude Family College for Agroecology Right: PELUM-Kenya/Uganda representative together with ISFAA coordinator sharing information on agroecology on UMU radio station

Vihiga County agriculture department and stakeholders bench marking and learning visit to Murang'a County

From September 6th to 8th, 2023, twenty-five members of the Vihiga Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) embarked on a benchmarking and learning expedition to Murang'a County. This visit provided a unique opportunity for the team to gain first-hand insights into the successful strategies employed by Murang'a in the realm of agroecology.

During their stay, the Vihiga MSP members delved into several key aspects of Murang'a's agroecology initiatives. They explored the county's strategic approaches to implementing, funding, coordinating, and operating its Agroecology policy. Furthermore, they examined the operational frameworks and contributions of the Agroecology MSP in Murang'a, particularly in shaping the Agroecology Policy and Act.

Another critical area of learning was understanding how Murang'a County is propelling the adoption of agroecological practices among farmers. This visit not only broadened the perspectives of the Vihiga MSP members but also equipped them with valuable knowledge to enhance agroecological practices in their own county.



Delegates from Vihiga County visiting Mukarara Farm in Kangema Murang'a



Hon. Prof. Karingai Kamau CECM Agriculture in Murang'a County welcoming Hon. Nicholas Kitungulu and Vihiga team to Murang'a County.

Advancing Agroecology: County Directors Forge Paths in Peer Exchange Forum



Left: The participants of Counties peer to peer exchange and learning Right: Mr David Karanja of OACK talking about waste management on the farm



From September 24th to 26th, 2023, PELUM Kenya orchestrated a vital gathering for County Directors for Agriculture (CDA) from sixteen regions across Kenya, including Kajiado, Bungoma, and Makueni, among others. The forum was meticulously designed to facilitate a peer-to-peer exchange focused on the integration and advancement of agroecology policies.

The event aimed to fast-track the adoption of agroecological practices

and foster policy integration within local governments to enhance sustainability in food systems. Directors from counties like Murang'a and Vihiga took the lead, sharing their journeys in developing agroecology policies—highlighting the strategies employed, obstacles encountered, and key factors that facilitated their progress.

The interactive sessions allowed participants to exchange valuable insights and experiences, confronting

common challenges and exploring effective instruments and approaches. By the end of the forum, each county had crafted an action plan to collaborate more closely with local partners and stakeholders, setting a proactive course toward transforming their respective food systems. This initiative marks a significant step forward in promoting sustainable agriculture practices across Kenya.

Cultivating Collaboration: PELUM Kenya's Role in Advancing Agroecology in Makueni County

PELUM Kenya has been instrumental in fostering agroecological practices in Makueni County through the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to agroecology. This initiative has seen productive engagement meetings with the County Agriculture Department and the County Agricultural Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM). Through these

discussions, two crucial CASSCOM meetings were held, focusing on agroecology sensitization and support for Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs).

A significant outcome of these collaborations is the formation of a technical working group on agroecology under CASSCOM, signifying



Courtesy Visit to the CECM for Agriculture, Joyce Mutua (Second right), on promoting Agroecology in Makueni County

a strategic move towards integrating agroecology into county policies and plans. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding is set to be signed between PELUM Kenya and the Makueni County Agriculture Department to formalize support for the MSP and aid in developing a comprehensive County Agroecology Strategy. This partnership exemplifies a proactive approach to sustainable agricultural development, with a recent stakeholders' meeting marking further progress in uniting community members, government officials, and experts around this vital cause.



Group photo during Agroecology stakeholders forum held in Makueni, 2023

Farmer Managed Seed Systems Advocacy

PELUM Kenya is at the forefront of a vital advocacy campaign to secure legal recognition for Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS), aiming to empower farmers with the right to use and manage their own seeds. In the current legislative landscape, the county's seed laws do not acknowledge FMSS, posing a significant

barrier to achieving seed and food sovereignty.

To combat this, PELUM Kenya, along with various stakeholders, is actively lobbying for a revision of these outdated seed laws. As part of their efforts to educate and mobilize the community, they have produced

800 posters. These materials highlight the importance of farmer seed rights and seed sovereignty, providing crucial information to support the campaign. This initiative not only promotes legislative change but also fosters a greater understanding and engagement among farmers about their rights and the benefits of seed sovereignty.

SEED is sovereign; defend farmer seed rights

Farmers should be able to:

- Multiply their seeds
- Select and breed their seeds
- Save their seeds
- Share seeds with other farmers
- Exchange their seeds
- Have control on their seeds
- Have rights to own the seeds
- Be able to sell their seeds

REVIEW OUR SEED LAWS IN ORDER TO RECOGNISE FARMER OWNED SEEDS!

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)
Kenya Country Secretariat
KU Boma Estate, House No. 114
Along Kenyatta Road, off Thika Superhighway

P.O. Box 6123-01000, Thika-Kenya
Office Tel: +254 709 746 939
Email: pelumkenya@pelum.net
Website: www.pelum.net

Let's Protect and Conserve Our Farmer Managed Seed Systems for Food and Seed Sovereignty

Why support farmer managed seed systems:

- Preserves agricultural diversity
- Easily accessible and affordable to farmers
- Adaptable to local climates
- Resistant to pests and diseases
- Highly nutritious
- Culturally acceptable
- More resilient to climate change
- Eliminates seed dependency
- The seeds are used in many seasons

SAY NO TO LAWS AGAINST FARMER OWNED SEEDS.

A food revolution starts with seed!

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Website: www.pelum.net

@ PELUM Kenya

PELUM Kenya Champions Greater Investment in Agroecology in Lower Eastern Kenya

PELUM Kenya is taking decisive steps to advocate for increased budget allocations for agroecology in the counties of Kitui, Machakos, and Makueni in Lower Eastern Kenya. Through a detailed analysis of the agricultural budgets within these regions, PELUM Kenya identified a significant gap in resources and projects dedicated to sustainable agriculture practices. In July 2023, a

validation meeting was held in Machakos, drawing 32 participants to discuss the findings and strategize on advocacy approaches. From this meeting, three policy briefs were developed, targeting the specific needs and opportunities in each county.

The critical insights from these policy briefs will be shared with stakeholders across the counties to bolster

advocacy efforts aimed at increasing local budgets and investments in agroecology. This initiative underscores PELUM Kenya's commitment to enhancing sustainable agricultural practices through strategic policy influence and community engagement.



Stakeholder Validation meeting on agriculture budget analysis report held in Machakos, July

Linking Local to Global Initiatives

Community caravan towards COP28

PELUM Kenya held a sensitization forum at community level, media engagement and caravan/procession in Nakuru with the aim to Increase community and public knowledge on the impact of fossil-based agrochemical to the environment and health. As a result PELUM Kenya Stirred a debate

at the local and national level of the fossil fuel based agrochemicals, link to climate change and health and the power of agroecology in addressing challenges in the current food system through the community caravan and media engagement



Left: Ms . Irungu during a media interview in Nakuru town Right: Community procession in Nakuru town during the caravan towards COP 28

PELUM Kenya Shines at COP 28 with a Focus on Agroecology and Climate Resilience

At the UNFCCC COP 28 in Dubai, PELUM Kenya made significant strides in advancing the discourse on agroecology as a key solution for climate resilience. Hosting a virtual exhibition at the Kenya Pavilion, PELUM showcased engaging short videos on crucial topics such as soil health and on-farm water conservation, highlighting the effectiveness of agroecological practices.

The event also served as a platform for advocacy, pushing for increased

funding for agri-food systems within the climate change arena. Ms. Mary Irungu, Advocacy Programme Officer at PELUM, actively participated in a pivotal discussion titled “Accelerating Regenerative and Agroecological Transitions – A Philanthropic Theory of Transformation.” This session, organized by global leaders like CGIAR, FAO, IFAD, and The Rockefeller Foundation, explored how over 20 funders are aligning resources to transform food systems.

Furthermore, Ms. Irungu brought invaluable insights to a side event focusing on agroecology as a strategy for climate mitigation. She discussed the financial opportunities for implementing agroecological practices in Africa, emphasizing the profound impact and experiences of smallholder farmers. Through these contributions, PELUM Kenya reinforced the importance of directing resources towards smallholder farmers, showcasing their pivotal role in fostering sustainable agricultural practices globally.

Side-Event COP 28

Agroecology as a Climate Change Measure: Exploring financial opportunities for Agroecological Practices in Africa



Sena Alouka
Executive Director
of JVE Togo



Million Belay Coordinator
at Alliance for Food
Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)



Karen Nekesa Advocacy
and Communication
Coordinator at RESCOPE



Mary Irungu Policy and
Advocacy Programme Officer
at PELUM Kenya



Mamadou Fall
Executive Director
of IED Afrique



Bernard Kimoro
AGN Negotiator on
Agriculture



Angelica Shamerina
Program Advisor of the GEF
Small Grants Programme



Emile Frison Senior Advisor
of the Agroecology Coalition
and IPES



Jahan Chowdhury
Global Lead for Environment
and Climate at IFAD

HOSTED BY:

AFSA
ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

Both ENDS
Connecting people for change

ORGANISED IN CLOSE
COOPERATION WITH:
IED AFRIQUE &
PELUM KENYA

CATALYZING CHANGE: BUILDING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURES

**TUE 05 DEC 2023
09:00 GST (GMT+4)**

**IICA PAVILION, BLUE ZONE
BUILDING 89 (FOOD&HEALTH)
POSITION: TA2-135**

Panelists:

- Alexander Müller**
TMG - Think Tank for Sustainability
- Rosinah Mbenya**
PELUM Kenya
- Louise Baker**
UNCCD
- Martina Fleckenstein**
WWF International
- Marcella D'Souza**
WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies
- Alessandro Cruvinel Fidelis**
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Brazil



Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, PELUM Kenya Country Coordinator among the panelist Right: side event on Catalyzing change: building inclusive governance for sustainable food future organized by WWF, IKI et al

PELUM Kenya contributed to the spurred debate on its importance in building resilient farming systems UNFCCC COP 28.: PELUM Kenya Country Coordinator Ms. Rosinah Mbenya contributed to side event on Catalyzing change: building inclusive governance for sustainable food future organized by WWF, IKI and et.



Ms. Mary Irungu, PELUM Kenya Advocacy programme officer, among the panelist on the side event on the Healthy Soils for land and climate organized by UNCCD

CECM Agriculture from Central Region Economic Block (CEREB) bench marking and learning visit on agroecology to Murang'a County

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with County Government of Murang'a Agriculture Department hosted CECM for Agriculture from Central Region Economic Block (CEREB). The counties represented included: Murang'a, Nyeri, Kitui, Nyandarua, Makeuni, Kajiado, Meru, Embu, Nakuru, Kiambu and Kirinyaga. The forum deliberated on integration of agroecology in the food systems. Later the CECMs visited OACK and selected farms in Murang'a, Nairobi & Central Member organizations in collaboration with other Implementing actors consider advocating for policy changes throughout all phases of the policy change process, from agenda setting to policy evaluation. For policy implementation, empowering farmers is very important. Through the support of GIZ project the members in the zone supported various forums in Muranga County aimed at enhancing knowledge on agroecological practices as well as the implementation of Muranga County agroecology policy.

The training of Murang'a County extension staff was organized with an overarching objective of sensitizing the County government extension staff on Agroecology to facilitate county directorates align with agroecology to support policy implementation framework. The one-week workshop noted the need to continually expose the county extension staff to agroecology to scale up adoption of Agroecology practices and principles by the farmers.

In supporting the Muranga County's effort to establish relationship with research institutions for collaboration in transforming agri-food systems in the County, the project supported ongoing efforts by the County government, Muranga University and ICE that developed, reviewed, validated and launched the agroecology curriculum for a short course to be used to train and guide the county extension staff during their grassroots farmer trainings. The activities achieved the following;

1. Reviewed the agroecology course outline developed by Murang'a University of Technology.
2. Set timelines for the proposed certificate short courses and determine their appropriate academic centres.
3. Harmonized existing training materials currently used by extension learning centers.
4. Identified training gaps in agroecology extension and discuss potential retooling options.

The workshop, also anticipated to achieve a more cohesive agroecology learning landscape in Murang'a. Additionally, workshop targeted to set the stage for agroecology training in Kenya, contributing to the broader goal of sustainable and just agrifood systems.



Professor Kiringai Kamau, CECM agriculture Murang'a County leading his colleagues from CEREB during the Benchmarking and learning forum.



Stakeholders during the validation and right during the launch of Agroecology short course curriculum at Muranga University of Technology



Muranga County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture give his opening remarks during the two day workshop organized to collect inputs for the agroecology short course curriculum development

Sensitization meeting

The County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) is a crucial five-year blueprint for county governments, developed by incorporating inputs from various sources including governors' manifestos, national plans, past development records, and stakeholder expectations. In 2023, LECZ organized review meetings for the Kitui and Kajiado CIDPs for 2023-2027, presenting two memoranda to the county assemblies for consideration. Key issues highlighted included the need for increased agricultural budget allocation to meet the 10% target of the Maputo Declaration, sufficient resources for public participation, and adherence to the fiscal rule limiting staff costs to 35% of total revenue.



Mr. Rashid Mzee taking the participants through the Kajiado County CIDP



Radio talk show and media engagement

On November 9, 2023, Radio Kaya hosted a talk show in Kwale County featuring the zonal Coordinator and a staff member from the Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum. The program, aimed at Coastal region listeners, focused on promoting agroecology and climate change adaptation for smallholder farmers. The speakers appealed to government bodies to develop agroecology policies and encouraged local adoption of sustainable practices. They also called for private sector support to combat climate change and food insecurity.

Public participation forum for MOs and farmers for Bungoma budget making for FY 2023/2024

On May 19th, 2023, a critical forum was held at the ACK diocese hall in Bungoma County, attracting 21 participants. The session, led by an expert facilitator, educated local farmers and community members about the budget-making process and the strategic frameworks of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and Annual Development Plan (ADP). Discussions highlighted the importance of public hearings in May as part of the legal budgeting process. Farmers proposed several enhancements, including soil testing, improved extension services, recognition of conservation agriculture, and water conservation techniques. Additional suggestions included policies on sand harvesting, protection of wetlands, and enforcement of a 10% tree cover to curb charcoal burning. The refined proposals were formally submitted to the county assembly for consideration.



Empowering Grassroots Participation in Kisumu's Development Agenda

Support for Tropical Initiatives in Poverty Alleviation (STIPA) and the Kisumu County Development Trust (KCDT) have made remarkable strides in engaging grassroots organizations in crucial policy discussions. Prior to meetings with the County Assembly, these community groups were meticulously prepared to engage in discussions about the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and Annual Development Plan (ADP). Many participants were initially unaware of these key documents, historically seen as the domain of political insiders.

Through comprehensive briefings, the groups not only gained awareness but also actively shaped the development agenda, articulating their priorities for inclusion in the ADP with specified budgets. Challenges such as transportation to the venue initially hindered participation. However, with PELUM stepping in to facilitate mobility and meals, a significant number of community members, including 16 from STIPA, were able to attend and contribute to this critical session. This support underscored the

importance of inclusive governance and the vital role of grassroots input in shaping development policies.



Members of Seme Sub County listening to CIDP/ADP presentation

Climate Change, Resilience, And Natural Resource Management

The Goal of PELUM Kenya's interventions on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in this planning period is to enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to the effects of climate change and natural disasters. PELUM Kenya will continue creating awareness about Climate Change and its effects in general and partnership building the communities' resilience.

PELUM Kenya will endeavour to engage the communities through the member organizations on the following vital interventions; Natural Resource Management, Disaster preparedness, Climate governance, soil and water conservation, sustainable water management, including water governance, watershed management, and rehabilitation, Diversification of Agro enterprises and Issues affecting pastoralists.



Exposure visit to Effective IPM Association by PSAMY Participants from FACHIG Trust, Zimbabwe

Tree planting in Gatare and Uplands Forests

The Nairobi & Central zone focused on enhancing member organization participation in environmental conservation and natural resource management, including the rehabilitation of Gatare and Uplands Forests. Activities included planting 5,870 indigenous trees and 500 bamboo plants on riparian land, and dispersing 10 kg of seedballs donated by Seedball Kenya to promote natural regeneration. The zone also supported the review and launch of the Uplands Participatory Forest Management Plan and Forest Management Agreement, guiding community conservation efforts with Kenya Forest Services. Collaboration for Aberdares forest conservation was emphasized through partnerships with local forest managers, community leaders, and media campaigns on agroecological practices, involving channels like Inooro, Kameme, and KTN.



Top; stakeholders pose for a photo during a lobby meeting on conservation of Aberdares organized in collaboration with ICE and below; ICE staff Mr. Mburu and KFS staff during the launch of uplands participatory forest Management Plan (PFMP)



Five farmer groups were supported to establish water pans and agroecology demonstration gardens in 2023 through IWAMA DIFE Project as part of the project initiative to create awareness and increase the adoption of agroecological practices and water harvesting technologies as mitigation measures against climate change among farmers.

Above Tree planting at Uplands Forest held on 4th May 2023 through IWAMA DIFE II project

Five farmer groups were supported to establish water pans and agroecology demonstration gardens in 2023 through IWAMA DIFE Project as part of the project initiative to create awareness and increase the adoption of agroecological practices and water harvesting technologies as mitigation measures against climate change among farmers.



PELUM Kenya project Coordinator and M&E officer during the monitoring visit to various farmers who were beneficiaries of the water pans through IWAMA Dife Project partners.



The water pan was installed at Mr Benson Njoroge's farm with support from the IWAMA II project and right, part of the demo garden established and farmers during the field day on 18th Oct 2023.



Community-Led Initiative Aims to Combat Illegal Sand Harvesting in Makueni County

A community-driven project in Makueni County aims to enhance monitoring of environmental and agricultural practices, particularly focusing on the adverse effects of sand harvesting. This initiative involves engaging local communities and stakeholders at both national and county levels to ensure the effective enforcement of environmental policies. It prioritizes stakeholder education and capacity building to advocate for legislation that supports sustainable practices. Key concerns include the



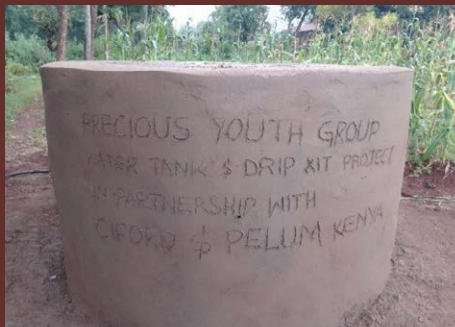
Makueni county water officer taking through participants on matters of riparian land and the laws governing it

drying of streams and degradation of river beds due to sand harvesting, particularly in the Ikolya River region. Efforts include raising awareness about legal frameworks and promoting community involvement in deci-

sion-making processes to prevent illegal practices and conserve natural resources. This collaborative project seeks to empower local communities and safeguard Makueni County's natural assets for future generations.

Enhancing Agroecology through Water Conservation

PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with CIFORD Kenya, equipped two dynamic groups - a youth group and a women's group - with essential tools for sustainable agriculture. Each group received a 5,000-liter water tank and a drip irrigation kit for a quarter-acre of land. The Precious Youth Group and the Nkiluthu Women Group are set to establish agroecology demonstration sites in their communities. These sites will serve as practical learning hubs for adopting agroecological technologies and practices, benefiting not only the groups but also neighboring farmer groups and local students through a planned collaboration with a nearby primary school. This initiative aims to foster community-wide educational opportunities and enhance sustainable agricultural practices.



Nkiluthu Women group members during installation of the water tank and irrigation drip kit

Radio Talk shows on Climate Change Adaptation

In West Pokot and Trans Nzoia Counties within Kenya's North Rift region, radio talks have been instrumental in promoting climate-smart agriculture and environmental conservation. Addressing climate change adaptation, experts discussed practical strategies for local farmers, such as crop diversification, soil management, and water conservation. The sessions in West Pokot focused on adapting agroecology practices, while Trans Nzoia tackled the rehabilitation of degraded lands, emphasizing the preservation of wetlands and forests threatened by agricultural expansion. These radio shows not only educated but also engaged a broad audience, highlighting the urgency of implementing sustainable practices and the need for stronger climate policies to safeguard the environment and support community resilience.



Benard and the ZC inside Mitume FM radio station in Kitale



Jack and James inside North rift Radio for a talk show on Climate change adaptations suitable for West pokot

Community baraza in Nyatike, Migori to create awareness on NRM practices

Nyatike Mirema CFA have embarked on a mission to preserve and protect their precious forests through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), a sustainable practice in natural resource management. Gathered for an extensive meeting, community members shared their experiences with FMNR and identified other Natural Resource Management Practices (NRMP) that resonate with

their values. Together, they explored ways to enhance their conservation efforts and expand their impact on the environment.

During the meeting, new practices were introduced, enriching the collective knowledge and commitment of the community towards environmental conservation. It was a moment of shared learning and collab-

oration, where ideas blossomed and initiatives took root. Amidst these discussions, an opportunity arose to introduce the community to PELUM Kenya and its vital role in promoting sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. Through engaging with PELUM Kenya's activities, the community members discovered new avenues for participation and support in their endeavors.



Area chief giving a speech during the community baraza in Nyatike

Multi-stakeholder Forum for the Lower Mwitasyano Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) held on 31st May 2023 at ACK – Kyusyani

The forum marked the first multi-stakeholder forum held by the Lower Mwitasyano WRUA on 31st June 2023, at ACK kyusyani – Kitui rural subcounty. The meeting was facilitated by IFK officers with financial support from PELUM – K. In attendance were representatives from the National and County government institutions, NGOs, CBOs, WRUAs and CFAs. The main objective of the forum was to bring together WRUAs and CFAs together with other stakeholders to develop a common understanding of the WRUA mandates and activities and identify areas of working together ensuring co-ordinated efforts and build synergies.



PELUM zonal coordinator giving a brief about PELUMKenya

Drylands water harvesting and conservation technologies Training



Group photo during Training workshop of Drylands water harvesting and conservation technologies for Sustainable agriculture in ASALs

From November 15-17, 2023, in Makueni County, a pivotal training workshop was held for extension staff, lead farmers, and trainers from the Upper Eastern North Kenya Zone and Lower Eastern Central Zone. These regions, characterized by their arid climates and challenging soils, were the focus of a workshop aimed at empowering participants with advanced techniques in dryland water harvesting and soil conservation. The workshop provided intense training sessions, where participants delved into the essentials of soil health and sophisticated water harvesting methods suitable for arid and semi-arid lands.



Participants visited River Kaiti Sand Dam site and left River water pan

Discussions thrived as experts in sustainable agriculture shared cutting-edge technologies and strategies to enhance soil retention and water collection during limited rainy seasons. The participants, charged with enthusiasm and enriched with practical knowledge, left with personalized action plans. These plans were designed to spread their newfound insights throughout their communities, heralding a new chapter in transforming the challenging drylands into models of sustainable agricultural practice.



Agro-Enterprise and Market Development Component

PELUM Kenya's Agro-Enterprise and Market Development component plays a pivotal role in empowering smallholder farmers and promoting Agroecological practices across the region. Farmers are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to turn their agricultural activities into thriving businesses. By fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, PELUM Kenya supports farmers in diversifying their income streams and accessing lucrative markets for their produce.

The Agro-Enterprise and Market Development component at PELUM Kenya focuses on building the capacity of farmers in value addition, post-harvest handling, and market linkages. By providing training and technical assistance, farmers are better equipped to meet market demands, improve the quality of their products, and negotiate fair prices

for their produce. Additionally, PELUM Kenya facilitates market access for smallholder farmers, connecting them with buyers, retailers, and other stakeholders in the agricultural value chain.

Through this component, PELUM Kenya not only empowers farmers economically but also contributes

to the growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector. By promoting Agro-enterprise development and market linkages, PELUM Kenya is driving positive change in rural communities and fostering a more resilient and inclusive agricultural economy.

Exposure visit for Farmers to an Established Organic Market

A group of enthusiastic farmers, guided by representatives from Slow Food Kenya and various organizations like COSDEP, CREPP, and PELUM Kenya, embarked on a journey to the vibrant organic markets of Kiserian in Kajiado County and Gilgil in Nakuru County. Their mission was to exchange ideas and deepen their understanding of local organic farming practices. Immersed in the bustling markets, surrounded by vivid colors and scents, they engaged with local farmers, learning about the dedication required to cultivate the land. This experience taught them that farming extended beyond cultivation to include marketing, educating consumers, and even agritourism, inviting visitors to experience farm life. Inspired by the sustainable practices they witnessed, the participants left with a greater appreciation for the interconnectedness of food, people, and land, continuing their journey enriched by the insights gained.



Top: farmers from the SFK and COSDEP at the organic market in Kiserian. Below: farm excursion visit at CSHEP farm

Empowering Farmers through Agro-ecology: The Inspiring Journey of the Oyamo Widows' Group

In Nyakach, Kisumu County, the Oyamo Widows' Group, comprising 30 women and 5 men, exemplifies community empowerment and sustainable agriculture through agro-ecology. Guided by DIG's mentorship and the Farmer Field School methodology, this group engages in continuous training for at least six months before graduation, integrating new members annually.

At their demonstration site, the group practices various agro-ecology techniques like using compost manures, appropriate planting times and spacing, raised beds, nets, and irrigation. These practices have enabled them to establish diverse home gardens that enhance diets and ensure food security in their community. To disseminate their knowledge, the group, in collaboration with DIG, hosted a Farmer's Open Field Day two months post the establishment of their site. This event showcased their sustainable practices to other farmers and the broader community, transforming the site into a vibrant Farmer's Field School.

Facing financial hurdles in acquiring gardening tools, the group received essential support from PELUM, equipping them to better manage their gardens. The Oyamo Widows' Group's ongoing success and resilience illuminate the power of agro-ecology and collective endeavor in fostering sustainable farming and community empowerment in Nyakach.



Empowering Rural Communities: Nature-Positive Solutions Transforming Agrifood Systems

In a concerted effort to transform agrifood systems into resilient and sustainable models, a project in Vihiga and Kisumu Counties has been actively working with rural communities, training centers, and NGOs to promote Nature-Positive Solutions (NPS). These initiatives aim to empower women- and youth-led Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to access natural and financial resources, benefiting impoverished rural farming households and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The project has collaborated with NGOs such as STIPA, CREPP, BIOGI, and ADS Western to address training needs within the communities. STIPA focused on training a women's group in Kisumu on briquette making, circular bioeconomy business models, and enhancing group governance. CREPP educated 179 farm-

ers across six groups on bokashi production and organic market access, while BIOGI provided training on bokashi and compost making to 137 farmers and facilitated the construction of composting shades and the acquisition of a sugarcane juicer for sustainable bokashi production. ADS-W conducted training for three farmer groups, enhancing their agricultural practices and promoting sustainable methods.

These collaborative and innovative training efforts are equipping rural communities in Vihiga and Kisumu with the tools and knowledge to shift towards more sustainable agrifood systems. By adopting Nature-Positive Solutions and fostering community empowerment, the project is contributing to a more sustainable future for the involved stakeholders.



TOT during the induction of kitchen waste recycling (cassava and banana peelings)

Biofertilizer and biopesticide training

The activity aimed at demonstrating to farmers how they can make their biofertilizers and biopesticides to lower the cost of farming and reduce the use of chemical inputs in soil and environmental conservation. The forum presented an opportunity for farmers to network.

The invited participants were from Member organizations in the Lower Eastern and Coast zones namely ADSE, UDO, BIDII, IFK, KDC and KMCBO. Zonal level practical training on bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers and showcase advantages of eco-friendly farm inputs in Wote Makueni County.

Key learnings: Soil top cover Demonstration, Chicken Manure tea, Compost, Ash brew, Foliar/pest organic, Honey/fruit fly trap, Early blight, late blight, anthracnose control, Tobacco leaves pesticide, Organic fertilizer.



Farmers doing practicals of making plant teas

In Rift Western Kenya Zone, The participants were trained on how to make fertilizer and bio-pesticide from Fish by Grace Misoi who is a master trainer in the KCOA project.

There are two types of fish fertilizer:

- Fish emulsion -grinding, heating at high temperatures to extract oil and use the remains/by-products for fertilizer.
- Fish hydrolysate- Grinding fish and adding lactic acid bacteria to lower PH and control fermentation.

On April 5th and 6th, 2024, a comprehensive two-day training on bio-fertilizers and biopesticides was held at Caritas Meru in Meru County. This training aimed to enhance the knowledge of extension officers and smallholder farmers (SHF) regarding the use and production of biofertilizers and biopesticides from local resources. They learned practical skills for creating biofertilizers such as Bokashi, compost manure, and green manures, and biopesticides like ash brew, Apichi, and plant extracts. These methods are vital for managing pests and diseases in organic crop production.



Complete set up of a fish hydrolysate for fermentation



Participants in a practical session on making of Bokashi and making of ash brew during the practical training on bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides

Country Validation Workshops

PELUM Kenya hosted two (2) pivotal country validation workshops focusing on reviewing and validating Knowledge Products (KPs) for the Knowledge Management and Dissemination Strategies. During these sessions, twenty KPs were meticulously assessed, with twelve receiving approval for upload to the KCOA Platform. The workshop featured key participants including Country Validation Committee Members, Multipliers, and MTs. Additionally, a virtual country validation workshop followed on July 26th, 2023, where eighteen KPs were reviewed and five were validated for inclusion on the KCOA Platform, further enhancing the accessibility and dissemination of valuable knowledge.



Some of the CVC members after KPS validation workshop on 20th April 2023. From Left, Dr. Mihindo (EIMPA CEO & the Regional Validation Committee Chairperson), Bathseba Ratemo (PELUM Kenya KH & KCOA Project Officer; Prof. Nyende (JKUAT & CVC Vice, and Diana Mwangi (PELUM Kenya MERL PO & CVC Secretary).

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Planning meeting for Master Trainers on the KHEA Project

PELUM Kenya organized for Physical planning meeting with Master Trainers on 7th March 2023 at GBIACK. The key actions from the meeting were:

- Evaluated the results from the Multipliers' Survey
- Scheduled for the modality of the Refresher for Multipliers
- Deliberated Modality for Technical backstopping for the Multipliers
- Scheduled for the online webinars (topics and facilitators) from April 2023 to December 2023



MTs in the planning meeting at GBIACK. Planning meeting in session at GBIACK.

PELUM KENYA PRESENTS

ONLINE REFRESHER FOR MULTIPLIERS

FACILITATED BY KENYA MASTER TRAINERS

**27TH MARCH 2023
TO 4TH APRIL 2023**

10AM TO 12 NOON










ZOOM LIVE

REGISTER FOR THE LINK

NOTE: PARTICIPANTS ARE EXPECTED TO CATER FOR THEIR OWN BUNDLES AND OTHER LOGISTICS

FOR INQUIRIES, CONTACT 0787347353

27th March 2023 10AM- 12PM Day 1	Introduction to Organic Agriculture principles
28th March 2023 10AM- 12PM Day 2	Soil Management
29th March 2023 10AM- 12PM Day 3	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles, methods and practices
30th March 2023 10AM- 12PM Day 4	Seeds & Propagation
31st March 2023 10AM- 12PM Day 5	Livestock Integration
4th April 2023 10AM- 12PM Day 6	Organic Markets & Certification

Online Refresher for Multipliers

PELUM Kenya with its MTs organized an online refresher for the Kenya Multipliers. PELUM Kenya shared the poster for the online refresher on its social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and emails to partners within and outside the PELUM Kenya network. 362 interested participants registered through a KOBO Link

The online reach as at 17th April 2023 for the six (6) days is +12,500 accounts reached, +50 shares, and +4,264 views

Centres of Excellences Updates (GBIACK and RIDEP)

On May 20th, 2023, RIDEP marked its 20th anniversary with a significant celebration in Tharaka Nithi County, including the official opening of the RIDEP Training and Conference Centre. Although the KCOA Project did not sponsor this event, it enhanced the project's visibility. In conjunction, PELUM Kenya and RIDEP, supported by BIBA Kenya, organized a zonal seed fair forum, attracting members and farmers to the newly supported RIDEP Model community seed learning facility. Additionally, beehives were distributed to RIDEP farmers, promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

For GBIACK, over 200 farmers visited the center in 2023 to learn on organic agriculture and some visited for technical back-stopping.



RIDEP's Demo Farm and Mini- CoE launched and commissioned by Dr David Amudavi - Executive Director, BvAT and Mr Samuel Nderitu- Executive Director, GBIACK



PELUM Kenya Country Coordinator opened the RIDEP's Model Community Seed Bank



Farmers' training at GBIACK and Seed saving workshop held at GBIACK



Farmer level trainings at Community Level

PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with Master Trainers (MTs) and Multipliers, has embarked on a transformative journey to enhance sustainable farming practices. Through dedicated efforts, they have successfully trained 667 farmers in organic agriculture principles across nine counties: Uasin Gishu, Vihiga, Kericho, Laikipia, Nakuru, Kakamega, Murang'a, Kiambu, and Machakos.

The comprehensive training program spans five days, blending theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on experience. This dual approach ensures that farmers not only understand the principles of organic

agriculture but also learn how to implement them effectively in their fields.

During the sessions, farmers delve into the fundamentals of organic farming, including soil health, pest management, crop rotation, and composting. They also explore agroecological practices such as biodiversity enhancement, water conservation, and sustainable land use. Practical applications are a crucial part of the training, with farmers actively participating in activities like compost creation, organic pest control methods, and crop diversification. This initiative aims to boost

agricultural productivity, improve economic empowerment, and promote environmental sustainability. By adopting organic farming practices, farmers can increase their yields, access new markets for organic produce, and contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

PELUM Kenya's efforts are paving the way for a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector in these counties, empowering farmers with the knowledge and skills to thrive in an ever-changing agricultural landscape.



Farmers' training in Murang'a county



Session on SMS Learning through SMS Codes; Right: a practical session on intercropping)



Bokashi making in Kericho



Biopesticides making in Matungulu



Practical on seeds in Nanyuki



Agroforestry practical session during the Farmers' training in Githiga



Green Action Week/World food day celebrations

PELUM Kenya under the Agro-Enterprise & Market Development program organized the Green Action Week event, which was celebrated around the World Food Day. The event was held on 17th October 2023 at Mbumbuni, Mbooni Sub County in Makueni County. The event was held under the theme "Sustainability Consumption Through a Sharing Community". The Green Action Week is a global campaign that promotes sustainable consumption. Each year in October, organizations all over the world take action to promote a common course.

Green Action Week is an initiative by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and is carried out in coordination with Consumers International (CI).

PELUM Kenya member organizations also took an active part in the event and those present included Christian Impact Mission (CIM), Kitui Development Centre (KDC), Inades Formation Kenya (IFK), Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE), Utooni Development Organization (UDO), Community Sustainable Ag-

riculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP) and Dryland Natural Resource Centre (DNRC).

This year, about 58 civil society organizations in 31 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas participated in the campaign. The theme of this year's event was 'Sharing Community which works for people and the planet'. This was held to boost calls for sustainable consumption and to generate greater access to sustainable goods and services. The goal was to bring

about larger cultural or systematic change by sharing stories of participants around the world to raise awareness of what is possible. The objectives of this year's GAW were:

- To address unsustainable consumption patterns among the target group
- Encourage the use of natural resources, reduce energy consumption, conserve resources and promote sustainable alternatives.
- Supporting sharing community efforts to promote sustainable consumption patterns leading to adopt energy practices among consumers.



Processing in Mbumbuni during the Green Action Week



Participants marching while carrying informative placards during the procession



PELUM Kenya staff being introduced to the event attendees

World Food Day celebrations 2023 in Tharaka Nithi County

On October 16th, 2023, Tharaka Nithi County hosted the vibrant "My Seed, My Food, My Health" forum, in partnership with TCWWP. This event championed the use of indigenous seeds, agroecological practices, and herbal medicines, tackling vital issues like food security, environmental conservation, and climate resilience. Attended by 317 participants, including local government bodies, educational institutions, private sector organizations, and representatives from the mentally challenged and deaf communities of Kamatungu Schools, the forum featured:

- Dynamic Exhibitions: Showcasing indigenous seeds, sustainable products, and herbal remedies.
- Tree Planting Initiative: Over 200 trees, including native and fruit-bearing species, were planted to enhance biodiversity.
- Educational Sessions: Focused on promoting environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture.
- Recognition and Awards: Celebrating innovative contributions with awards and certificates, fostering a commitment to sustainable practices.



Participants learning from exhibition stands during the WFD forum

South Eastern Kenya National Show & Mombasa ASK Trade Fair 2023

PELUM Kenya made a significant impact at the Machakos County Agricultural Show in Machakos town, which highlighted the theme of promoting climate-smart agriculture and trade initiatives for sustainable economic growth. This agricultural show served as a vibrant exhibition platform showcasing the latest in agricultural innovations, marketing trends, financial services, and trades. It offered a critical opportunity for farmers, researchers, and industry stakeholders to exchange knowledge and display advancements in agroecology practices and organic products.

Different member organizations from Lower Eastern and Coastal Zone, Nairobi Central Kenya Zone, and others including GBIACK, KOAN, OACK, ABS Eastern, and more participated, presenting their unique organic farming methods and value-added products. This event not only fostered networking but also educated the public on the importance of organic agriculture and sustainable land management. PELUM Kenya's commitment to these goals earned them the chairman's commendation trophy, recognizing their exceptional contribution to the community and environment. Additionally, they secured second place in both the best Non-Government Organization and best organization in the community project sector categories, underscoring their impactful presence and leadership in the field.



Machakos show Chairman and guest of honour visit at the PELUM Kenya tent



Innovative farming practice on display at the Mombasa ASK show



The agro-enterprise and marketing Programme officer representing the country coordinator during the show.



Members of Lower Eastern Zone posing with the awarded chairman's commendation trophy



Livestock on display during the Mombasa ASK show.



Traditional dancers entertain attendants

In the bustling Nairobi & Central Zone, the AEMD initiatives have significantly uplifted local farmers by enhancing their skills in enterprise development and marketing. The programs focused on market-oriented production, encouraging the adoption of high-value crops and promoting aggregation and collective marketing strategies. These efforts were bolstered by the IWAMA DIFE Project, which facilitated consultative meetings with the county government, successfully lobbying for designated market spaces for organic products.

In Githunguri, a proactive market committee of nine members from di-

verse groups secured a special area for local organic farmers to sell their products, ensuring they remain uncontaminated. Moreover, the IWAMA DIFE II Project empowered five farmer groups by supporting their Income Generating Activities (IGAs), thus fostering a deeper engagement with agribusiness. Additionally, through the COSDEP Project Partner, the Gitwe organic farmers and Kihenjo Ergium farmers group received 300-egg capacity incubators and fertilized eggs. This equipment enabled them to expand their poultry operations, increase their income, and subsequently train other community members. The profits generated allowed them to invest in a backup generator,

cutting down on electricity costs and preventing potential losses.

Through SACDEP, Kigomo Central SHG benefited from an oil press machine that they are using in making macadamia oil, peanut oil, and Sunflower oil for their consumption, hence cutting the cost of buying cooking oil. Good Hope SHG farmers were supported by ICE with 10 Langstroth beehives to enhance their beekeeping initiative. The group was also taken through how to inspect hives, set up an apiary, plants that attract bees, and how harvest honey. By November, 8 hives had been colonized.



Above left, a member of the Kihenjo group showcases their incubator and right, chicks at different stages of development hatched from an egg incubator donated by RODI to the Matara Farmer group.

Exchange visits for extension and lead farmers to successful organic farms

Rift Western Kenya Zone facilitated two transformative exchange visits to enhance the agricultural knowledge of Mo's and farmers. The first visit in Koguta, Migori County, showcased advanced vegetable productivity techniques and soil fertility improvements such as composting, along with nutritional insights on diverse crops grown locally. Participants explored a variety of vegetables including grain amaranth, coriander, spinach, beetroot, and more.

The second visit, held in Mautuma, Kakamega County, focused on livestock farmers learning about diverse, protein-rich grasses beyond the traditional nappier grass. This visit was part of the "Grass to Cash" project by RIPPLE EFFECT, aimed at boosting livestock health and productivity.



the Exchange visits

Exchange learning visits for farmers and MOs

On July 4th, 2023, the RIDEP Dryland Agroecology Demo Farm in Tharaka Nithi County hosted a forum with 28 participants (9 males, 21 females; including 9 youths) from UENKZ Member Organizations. The forum aimed to demonstrate RIDEP's agroecological practices, facilitate networking, and promote the practical application and expansion of these sustainable techniques. Participants, including extension officers and farmer champions from women and youth groups, engaged in learning at various demo sections such as the livestock unit, herbs and spices, nursery beds, tree seedlings, and the composting and biofertilizers area. This gathering underscored the value of hands-on learning in advancing agroecological practices.



Participants learning from RIDEPs Dry land Agroecology demo farm during exchange visit

Innovation Platform Forum in Migori



Farmers' Exhibitions during the innovation forum

RIPPLE Effect Kenya, in partnership with the Department of Special Program and External Partnerships, hosted an innovation platform event on June 8, 2023, at Kambogo Chiefs Camp in West Kanyamkago, Uriiri Sub County, Migori County. The event drew over 500 stakeholders from various communities to showcase and exchange knowledge on different technologies and innovations aimed at enhancing productivity and reducing poverty. Themed

"Promoting climate-smart agricultural technologies and innovations for improved livelihoods," the event was to be graced by Deputy Governor Dr. Joseph Mahiri Gimunta, who was represented by CEC for MOALF, Mr. Lucas Musenda. Musenda encouraged participants to embrace new technologies like the iron-rich Nyota bean. The event also increased visibility for PELUM Kenya and assessed Ripple Effect's potential as a network member.

Zonal-level seed fairs to identify lost seeds and promote seed sharing and exchange among farmers

The Seed Savers Network Kenya, in collaboration with PELUM Kenya Association, hosted a significant seed fair in Kikopey, Gilgil sub-County, Nakuru County. This event aimed to unite farmers to exchange and learn about indigenous seed varieties. Amidst growing concerns over food

insecurity, biodiversity loss, and the decline of indigenous seeds due to hybrid dependency and monocropping, the fair served as a platform for advocating seed saving practices. It promoted the restoration of biodiversity and cultural connections to traditional seeds. Numerous commu-

nity groups like Kahuaini Farmers, Seed Savers Women, and Karunga Women showcased their exemplary seeds, emphasizing the fair's role in preserving diverse plant species and sustaining agricultural resilience

On May 20th, 2023, RIDEP celebrated its 20th anniversary by collaborating with local organizations to host a seed fair forum in Tharaka Nithi County. This event provided an exceptional platform for member organizations, farmers, and key partners to exhibit their efforts in promoting farmer-managed seed systems. Attended by over 300 participants, the forum aimed to showcase initiatives related to seed systems, fostering seed saving, sharing, and exchanges among farmers. Through the exhibitions, participants deepened their understanding of indigenous seed varieties and foods. The event also facilitated networking, enabling the recovery and exchange of indigenous seeds that had been lost over time.



Farmer seeds and knowledge exchange during the Seed fair exhibition at Kikopey



Participants learning through showcasing and exhibition during the seed fair forum

Participated in the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference from 21st to 24th March 2023

PELUM Kenya supported Member Organizations in exhibiting at a key event that achieved significant outcomes. Firstly, it facilitated the dissemination of information on optimal organic agriculture (OA) practices among agroecology stakeholders. Media coverage amplified the call for policymakers to integrate ecological OA approaches. Additionally, the exhibitor showcased diverse OA products from the Western region, enhancing networking opportunities. A field visit to Limuru highlighted the potential of syntropic agriculture, demonstrating innovative techniques for effective farming within limited land spaces, thereby providing practical insights for sustainable agricultural practices.



Mr Wallace Ashiemi, KCOA farmer exhibiting during the 1st Agroecology Conference

Gender and Youth Inclusion in Agroecology

PELUM Kenya, supported by GIZ, organized agroecology training programs from September to November 2023 to enhance farming resilience and improve livelihoods among Kenyan smallholder farmers and pastoralists. The training, part of a broader initiative to integrate sustainable farming practices, involved 22 youths across five learning institutions in various specialized courses including agroecology, fish farming, permaculture, and biointensive agriculture.

Key sessions included:

- Agroecology training for 10 youths at MHAC from October 22-26.
- Permaculture design course for one youth at DNRC from September 11-22.
- Fish farming for five youths at Baraka College from October 16-20.
- Permaculture for one youth at Laikipia Permaculture Center from

November 13-25.

- Biointensive agriculture for five youths at GBIACK from October 16-20.

Additionally, the Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Marketing through Youth Involvement (PSAMY) project, a collaborative effort with FACHIG in Zimbabwe and funded by NOREC, facilitated exchanges

between Kenyan and Zimbabwean youths. This project saw Kenyan participants share their expertise in sustainable practices and marketing at various institutions in Zimbabwe, promoting cultural and knowledge exchange. This ongoing program aims to foster collaboration between the youth of the two nations through 2025.

Empowering Youth and Women: PELUM Kenya's Agroecology Forums Spark Change

PELUM Kenya is championing initiatives to empower youth and women in agroecology and sustainable food systems. They organized two forums with 72 participants to enhance skills in agroecology, entrepreneurship, and policy engagement, and established the Youth in Agroecology initiative to bolster policy involvement.

PELUM also supported young entrepreneurs and women farmers at major agroecology events, including the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference in Nairobi and the Women in Agroecology Expo in Uganda. Additionally, a youth entrepreneur gained exposure at the 5th African Organic Conference in Kigali, showcasing their products and networking. These efforts highlight PELUM's commitment to integrating these groups into the agroecology movement and transforming food systems.



Top: Youth in agroecology forum held at Eton Hotel, Thika in June 2023 Below: Women in Agroecology forum held in Thika, September 2023

Zonal Youth Summits and Caravans

On 22 September 2023, Kajiado hosted a youth summit and caravan supported by the Africa Biodiversity Network, aimed at promoting biocultural conservation at a national level. The event focused on educating youth about the significance of biocultural conservation, showcasing the Maasai community's transition from traditional pastoralism to embracing agricultural practices. The impressive turnout highlighted the youth's keen interest in learning about agriculture,

traditional beading, herbal practices, and meat preparation.

This summit was part of a series that began on 11 August in the Machakos Lower Eastern and Coast Region, where 74 participants, including 25 youths from Kiambu and Muranga, collaborated with the Vamwe-Ki group to preserve the Akamba community's indigenous seeds. Subsequent sessions included a gathering on 17 August in Tharaka Nithi Coun-

ty with 58 attendees and another on 31 August in Nakuru with 57 participants. The series concluded with the Kajiado event, which drew 61 attendees and emphasized traditional practices like beading and herbal medicine. These events collectively engaged the youth in appreciating and preserving biodiversity and cultural heritage, demonstrating a robust interest in biocultural conservation practices.



Maasai women display their bead work



Embracing traditional wear of the Maasai community

Empowering Farmers with Agroecological Practice

To bolster community-led advocacy, 146 women and youth farmers were educated on agroecological best practices, technologies, funding opportunities, including government affirmative action programs, and farmer-managed seed systems. In Nairobi and the Central Zone, a youth caravan from Kiambu to Machakos was organized to facilitate knowledge exchange on culturally significant practices for conserving cultural and biological diversity.

Addressing the prevalent use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers in Kiambu County, member organization farmers were trained on safer bio-input alternatives. The training aimed to enhance the adoption of bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers for increased farm productivity. It included sensitizing farmers on bio-inputs, raising awareness about their availability and ecological benefits, and practical sessions on creating these inputs.



Vamweki group member explain to youths how to make traditional fermented porridge, a cultural practice of the Akamba Community during the youth caravan on biocultural conservation



SACDEP Staff display indigenous seeds during a forum organized to share experiences and challenges facing farmer managed seed system at GBIACK

Empowering Voices: Addressing Land Rights for Youth and Women on Radio Citizen



Mrs. Ester Bett and Mr. Dennis Mwenda during the Radio talk show session at Radio Citizen.

On December 4th, 2023, Radio Citizen hosted a critical talk show, drawing attention to the land rights issues facing youth and women in Kenya's agricultural sector. With a robust listenership of over 10 million daily, the radio program featured a balanced panel with one female and one male participant discussing key topics. These included the specific land and property rights challenges that youth and women face, their relation to climate change, and a call to action to address these persistent issues. The show also allowed for an interactive Q&A session, where listeners actively engaged and sought advice from the experts. This initiative highlighted the urgent need for equitable land distribution and rights protection in Kenya.

Awareness on available funding opportunities

The zone organized and held a meeting with youth and women to raise awareness on available funding opportunities in Kajiado on 20TH July 2023. Participants were from NIA, AAH-I and CSHEP. The purpose of the meeting was to expose the participant to potential funding organizations that target the youth, women and farmers. The presenters were drawn from Women Enterprise Fund, Ministry of Agriculture, Equity Bank-Kajiado, and Social services department.



Awareness is crucial for unlocking opportunities in agriculture, as many potential beneficiaries are often unaware of available resources. A recent forum aimed to empower women and youth farmers by providing them with information and resources to start or expand their agricultural ventures, promoting economic independence and inclusivity in the sector. The event highlighted various funding opportunities, including the Agricultural Development Fund Busia County,



the Cooperative Enterprise Fund, the Women Enterprise Fund, and the Youth Enterprise Fund. These funds support strategic farming, agribusiness, and empowerment initiatives. Four beneficiaries shared their success stories, illustrating how the support helped them scale their agribusinesses, fostering innovation and resilience in the industry.

Youth Enterprise Development Fund Representative explaining the different types of



The director of Transcom giving his closing remarks

Empowering Women in Agroecology: The AWOLA Initiative

The African Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA) Initiative, funded by Tudor Trust, is a transformative project enhancing women's leadership in agroecology across Zimbabwe, Uganda, and Kenya from 2022 to 2024. Focused on mentoring and nurturing emerging women leaders, the initiative has seen remarkable success in 2023. Utilizing tools like the Mentorship Manual, Individual Development Plan (IDP), and Mentorship Diary, the program received positive feedback from both mentors and mentees.

Key activities included mapping and matching seasoned mentors with emerging leaders, developing mentorship tools, and training women in agroecology mentoring and coaching principles. AWOLA aims to build women's capacity in agroecology to participate in decision-making, influence policies, and access resources, enhancing their economic empowerment and livelihoods.

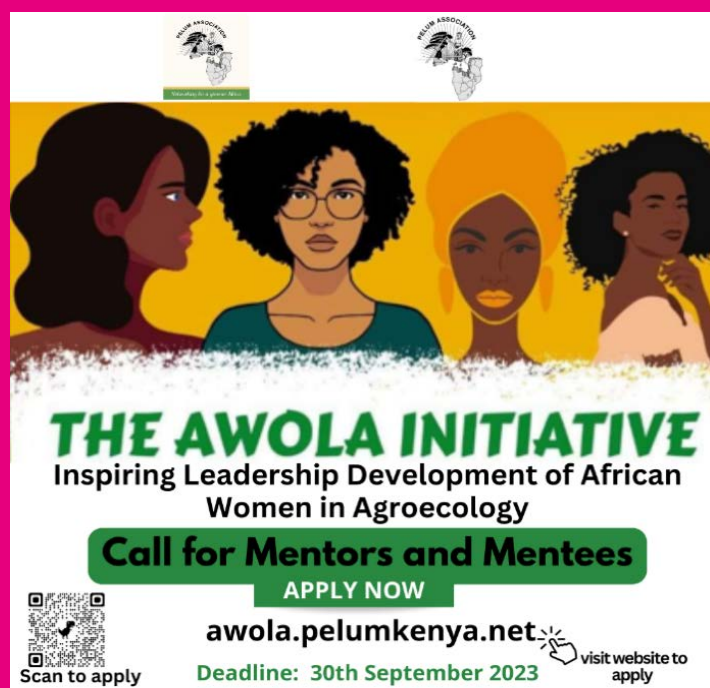
The initiative aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particu-

larly SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 1 on poverty reduction, and SDG 2 on zero hunger. The first cohort of 37 AWOLA mentors and mentees have now graduated to alumni status after a year of mentorship, coaching, and networking. These alumni will continue to engage with the second cohort as facilitators and speakers, furthering the impact of the AWOLA Initiative and fostering a community of empowered women leaders in agroecology.

Mapping of seasoned mentors and mentees

PELUM started the recruitment of the 2nd cohort in August 2023 by preparing online form (Kobo), posters for social media awareness, catch up meetings with partners, virtual interviews & shortlisting the applicants and matching the mentees to the mentors. 18 mentors and 18 mentees have been recruited to be part of the 2nd Cohort.

The direct beneficiaries of the AWOLA project primarily include strong and emerging women leaders in agroecology. These beneficiaries are generally adult women ranging from 21-70 years with 2 individuals with disabilities.



THE AWOLA INITIATIVE
Inspiring Leadership Development of African Women in Agroecology

Call for Mentors and Mentees

APPLY NOW

awola.pelumkenya.net

Deadline: 30th September 2023

Scan to apply visit website to apply

Monthly meetings between mentors and mentees

The Mentors and Mentees met monthly (either physical or virtually) from January 2023 to October 2023. The 1st session involved developing the individual development plans for the mentees which entails agreeing on a workplan with set targets for the mentorship. Each match of mentors and mentees have different focus areas and achievements.

The Main learning points for mentees are mainly on put into practice what was learnt from the exposures, identifying their strength and how to work on the different career challenges, seizing every opportunity to speak about yourself and share your thoughts and many more



Dr Ventre Mwongera and Lucy Mweche during one of their monthly mentorship meetings

Quarterly Motivational sharing

The average participants in the virtual motivational sharing were 25 with representation from the three countries. The 11 topics covered by AWOLA were on different topic. Some of the links to the recordings are Empowering oneself to be a great leader of people and process, Holistic Health and Wellness and Organic Retail

The initial target was AWOLA team but we shared the talks with trusted networks (both male and female) to be part of the mentorship talks except for Agroecology women leaders' stories of resilience. This one exception is because the women were being vulnerable and sharing their personal experiences.



Participation in Africa Climate Summit/Week and Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference

The summit took place on 4th to 8th September 2023 with 1 Mentor, 2 Mentees and 2 PELUM Kenya staff

from Kenya participating as registration was free. The summit provided a platform for knowledge exchange,

policy discussions, and collaborative efforts to accelerate climate action in the region

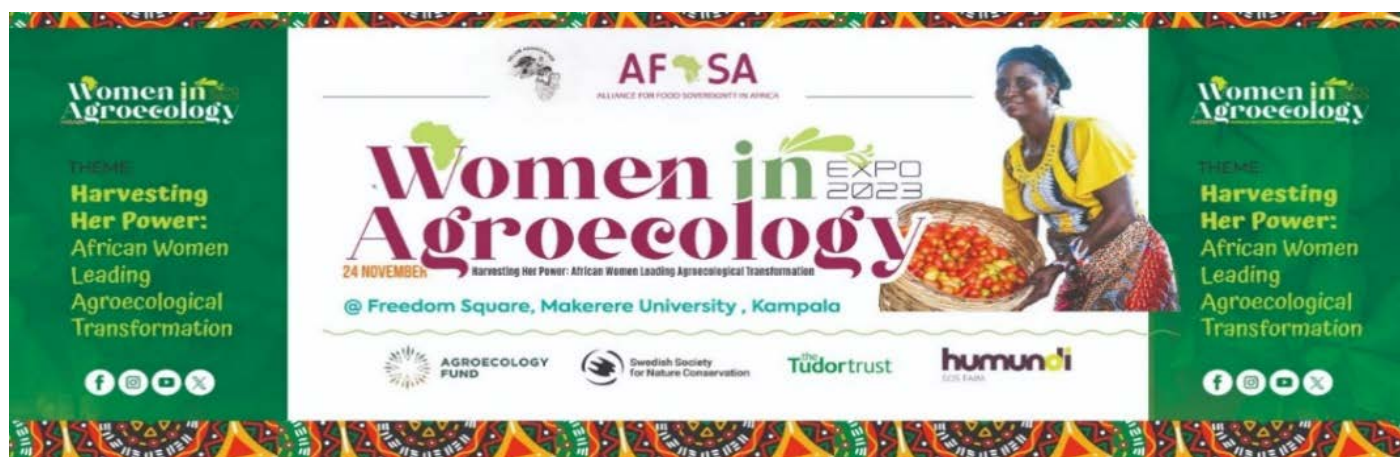


Group photo for AWOLA, YALTA and PSAMY Team from Kenya and Uganda who participated in the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference

Left: Irene Mumo, an AWOLA mentee exhibiting in the 1st Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference in March 2023
Right: Photo during the Africa Climate Summit From left: Sally Owuonda, AWOLA Mentee, Esther Kiruthi, AWOLA Mentee and Bathseba Ratemo, Programme Officer



African Women in Agroecology Expo



AWOLA initiative together with the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) organized an African Women in Agroecology Expo, 2023 on the 24th of November, 2023 in Uganda. The Expo was an extension to the AWOLA steering committee meeting that took place on the 23rd of November, 2023.

The African Women in Agroecology Expo 2023, themed “Harvesting Her Power: African Women Leading Agroecological Transformation,” culminated in a powerful conclusion

that not only celebrated the achievements and contributions of women in agroecology but also laid out a roadmap for future actions and initiatives. The proceedings highlighted a range of transformative stories and insights, demonstrating the critical role of women in sustainable agriculture, health, nutrition, and environmental stewardship.

Key recommendations for moving forward included the emphasis on making the Women in Agroecology Expo an annual event, fostering

continuous learning, sharing of best practices, and monitoring progress. The urgent need to reduce pesticide usage in farming was acknowledged, emphasizing sustainable and eco-friendly approaches to protect both health and the environment. The discussions called for greater youth engagement in agroecology, stressing the importance of educating young people about sustainable practices for the future of sustainable development.

AWOLA Annual Steering Committee Meeting

The annual steering committee meeting was held on 23rd November 2023 in Kampala, Uganda. The

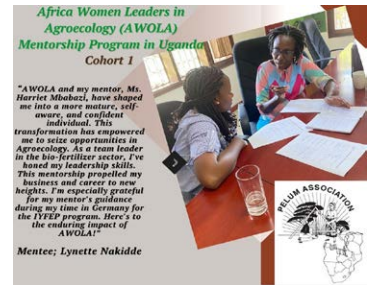
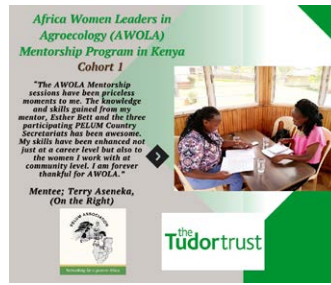
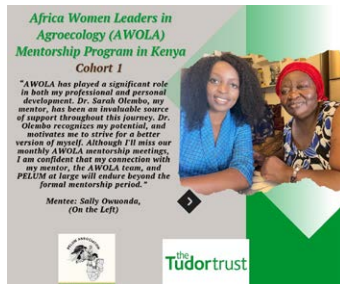
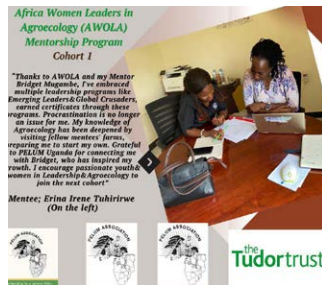
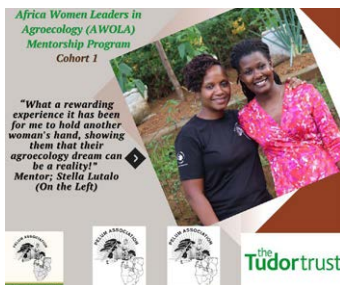
three countries had representation of 9 members with discussions on updates from the project coordinators,

future plans of AWOLA and sustainability of AWOLA.



The Steering Committee Meeting in Grand Global Hotel in Kampala, Uganda

Success Stories from AWOLA Initiative



PELUM Kenya's presence in the media



Civil societies want ban on fossil fuel agro-chemicals



https://youtu.be/r42y_qZiQWg?si=Gqk8WeEi15_L6hTi



https://youtu.be/md3zOpZCSmT?si=JH6PYAeB_JLsJ6Lu



<https://www.the-star.co.ke/counties/rift-valley/2023-11-17-state-urged-to-partner-with-donors-in-green-energy-production/>

(COP28) World Insights: On climate pledge developed countries urged to walk the talk

Source: Al Jazeera | Editor: Jazal | 2023-11-17 10:00:00



As major carbon emitters since the Industrial Revolution, developed countries bear historical responsibilities and legal obligations to offer help to developing countries, the biggest victims of climate change.

<https://english.news.cn/20231206/56eea334e1b8442a89762c-c7a32459db/c.html>



<https://www.themountainjournal.co.ke/2023/09/vihiga-trooped-to-murang-a-benchmarking.html>



<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/farm-kenya/crop/article/2001483955/farmers-win-praise-on-organic-farming-project>



<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/business/article/2001484817/give-farmers-biological-farm-inputs-lobby-urges-government>



https://youtu.be/OUcgiOcX6_k?si=ZD_yZgRggXiWf33F



<https://youtu.be/jdxJ5VoYRw0?si=uOD6lvhQBISMVlt8>



<https://nakurutimes.africa/farmers-shift-to-seed-fairs-to-share-knowledge-on-seed-diversity/mambili/>



Planet Action

Financial Summary

SUMMARY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

	2023	2022
	KES	KES
Income		
Grants Received	239,210,305	163,597,843
PELUM - Kenya Income	1,062,282	3,891,237
Total Income	240,272,587	167,489,080
Expenditure		
Indirect Project Costs	10,016,363	9,028,898
PELUM - Kenya Administration Costs	4,046,994	5,574,513
Direct Project Expenditure	192,935,698	145,329,024
Total Expenditure	206,999,055	159,932,435
Balance for the year (Page 9)	33,273,532	7,556,645

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	2023 (12 Months)	2022 (12 Months)
	KES	KES
Non-current Assets		
Property and Equipment	12,266,942	13,656,189
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank	55,373,751	22,792,496
Accounts Receivable	7,689,656	9,309,766
Total Current Assets	63,063,407	32,102,262
Less: Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	5,953,820	7,799,497
Net Current Assets	57,509,587	24,302,765
Net Assets	69,376,529	37,958,954
Represented By:		
General Funds	2,231,256	3,193,946
Restricted Funds	54,878,331	21,108,819
Sub-Total	57,109,587	24,302,765
Capital Fund	12,266,942	13,656,189
Fund Balance	69,376,529	37,958,954

PELUM Kenya Income

The total grants to PELUM Kenya in the financial year ended **31st December 2023**, increased from Kes **167,489,080** in **2022** to Kes **240,272,587** in **2023**, this being a **43.45%** increase. This increase can be attributed to the following:

1. An addition of 4 new funding partners Action Aid International, ICRAF, IWMI and GIZ.
2. Significant funding increase on some of the ongoing projects

- namely; Biovision Africa Trust support for the Knowledge Hub programme, NOREC support to PSAMY youth exchange project which also included Funding for 2024 disbursed in advance at the end of the year and Biovision Foundation support to the Policies in Agriculture in Kenya project.
3. Increased fluctuation thus increasing the exchange gains within various programmes.

This was communicated to the respective funding partners and additional funding ploughed back to the programmes.

PELUM Kenya during the year ended 2023 however did not receive any funding from ICE and OXFAM as per the previous year, they had funded short term programmes. PELUM Kenya is still in touch with the partners and discussing on future partnership.

Summary of the 2023 verses 2022 income

Funding Partner	2023		2022	
	KSh	Percentage	KSh	Percentage
SSNC	34,548,151	14.36	33,277,112	19.87
Bread for the World	37,908,631	15.78	52,875,058	31.57
Tudor Trust	12,363,585	5.15	12,650,301	7.55
BVAT	2,448,277	1.02	6,598,476	3.94
BVAT KCO-GIZ	22,279,000	9.27	6,175,000	3.69
NOREC NORSE	61,324,473	25.53	12,456,828	7.44
McKnight Foundation/IDEMS	2,243,274	0.93	696,163	0.42
BOTH ENDS	3,121,487	1.30	2,795,465	1.67
ICE	0	-	1,049,879	0.63
VI Agroforestry	5,448,636	2.27	4,601,539	2.75
Oxfam	0	-	1,218,719	0.73
ABN	1,738,139	0.72	1,742,958	1.04
Global Green grant	1,517,533	0.63	14,039,415	8.38
Biovision Foundation	19,372,000	8.06	13,420,930	8.01
Action Aid International	1,000,000	0.42	0	-
ICRAF	4,856,041	2.02	0	-
IWMI	2,812,943	1.17	0	-
GIZ special funds	26,228,135	10.92	0	-
PELUM Kenya Undesignated Income	1,062,282	0.44	3,891,237	2.32
TOTAL	240,272,587		167,489,080	

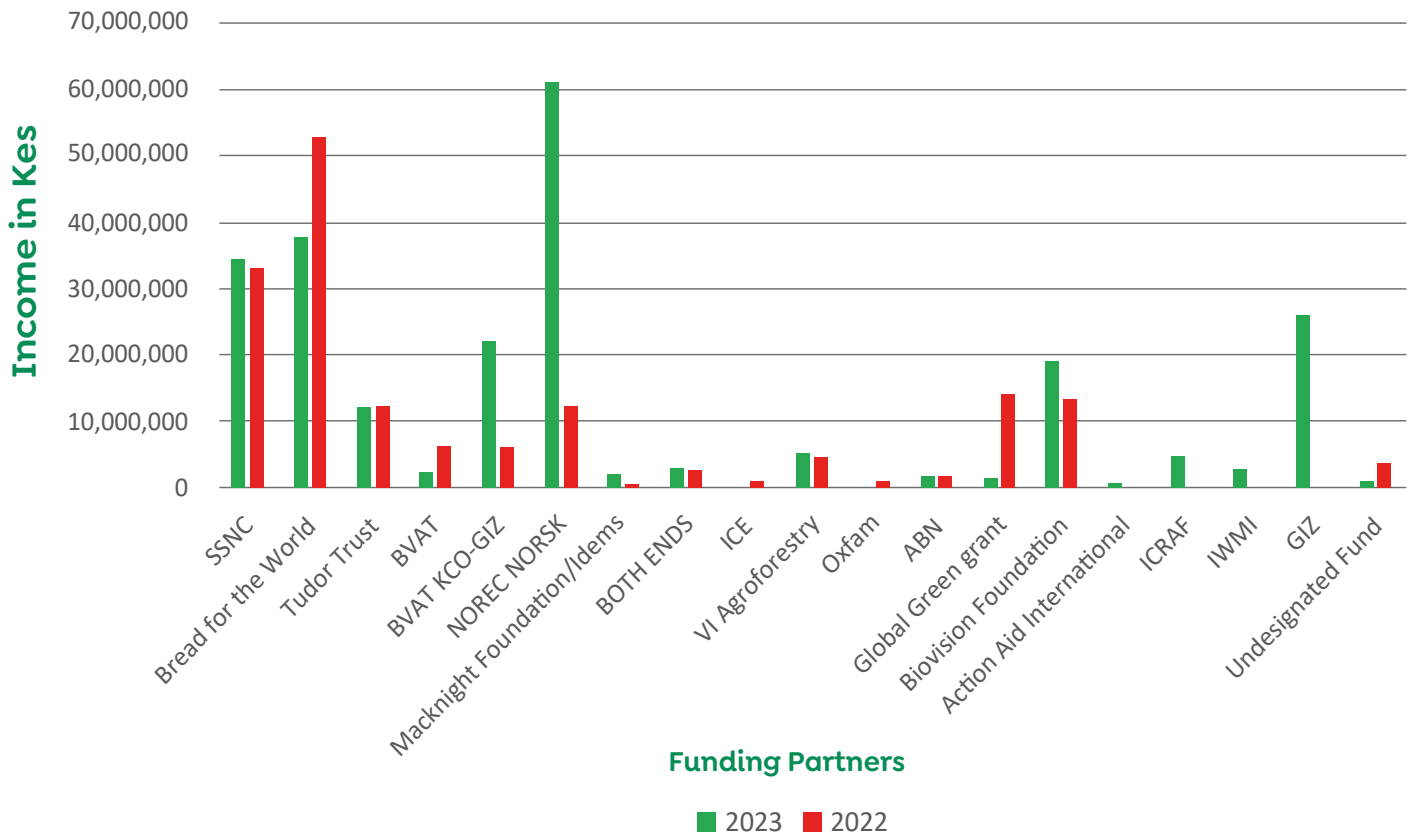
Membership fees received during the year Was Kes 707,997. This included registration fees for new members, 2023 annual membership fees and other prior year arrears.

During the year **2023 PELUM Kenya's** undesignated income was Kes **1,062,282** representing **0.44%** of the total income while in **2022** the undesignated income was Kes **3,891,237**. The income is com-

prised of Membership fees, Coordination Income, rent and Exchange Gain Income. The Actual Membership fees received during the year was Kes **707,997**. This included registration fees for new members,

2023 annual membership fees and other prior year arrears. In **2022** there was sale of land Gain income of Kes **2,600,000** thus the differential margin between the two years.

PELUM Kenya Income 2023 and 2022

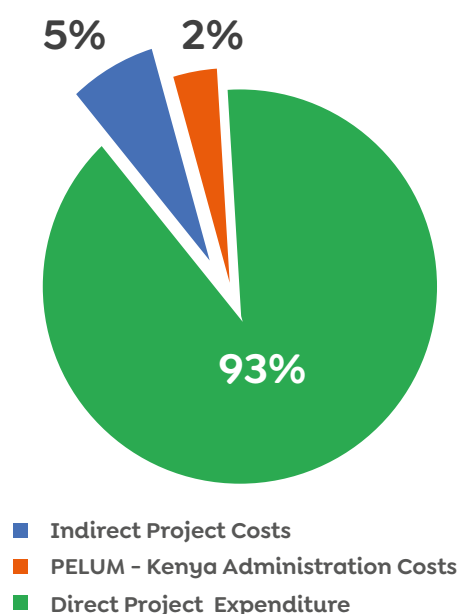


PELUM Kenya Expenditure

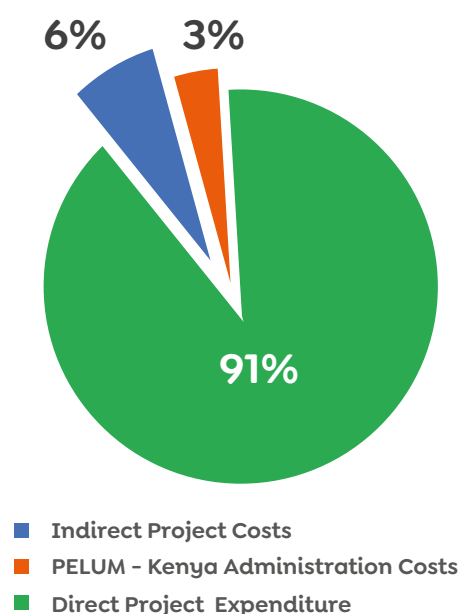
PELUM Kenya total expenditure in year 2023 was Kshs **206,999,055** as compared to year 2022's expenditure of Kes **159,932,435**. This is a **28.75%** increase, which is attributed to increased funding during the year; this in turn increased the level of activities in the country secretariat during the financial year ended 31st December 2023.

Expenditure	2023		2022	
	KSh	Percentage	KSh	Percentage
Indirect Project Costs	10,016,363	4.83	9,028,898	5.65
PELUM - Kenya Administration Costs	4,046,994	1.96	5,574,513	3.49
Direct Project Expenditure	192,935,698	93.21	145,329,024	90.87
Total Expenditure	206,999,055		159,932,435	

Expenditure 2023



Expenditure 2022



Assets amounting Kes **838,512** were procured during the year ended **31st December 2023**. This included computers and furniture



Networking for a greener Africa.

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