



PELUM KENYA



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PELUM Kenya partners and stakeholders during the launch of the 1st National Agroecology Symposium on 6th-7th Nov 2024 in Nairobi.

ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network with a membership of 63 member organizations promoting agroecological principles and practices among smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya.

PELUM Kenya network promotes agroecological principles and practices through the following approaches; advocacy and policy influence, networking, capacity development, information and knowledge sharing.

www.pelumkenya.net

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MESSAGE FROM PELUM KENYA COUNTRY COORDINATOR

By Rosinah Mbenya



Dear PELUM Kenya Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

PELUM Kenya continues to champion agroecology through advocacy, networking, and capacity development. Our Aberdares Watershed Management Project is making significant strides in conservation policy across Murang'a, Nyeri, Nyandarua, and Kiambu counties, strengthening climate resilience.

The 1st National Agroecology Symposium was a milestone in shaping policies for sustainable food systems, while the launch of the National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033) marked a major step in Kenya's agroecological transformation.

Globally, PELUM Kenya participated in COP29 in Baku, the Organic World Congress in Taiwan, and the CGIAR Agroecology Initiative, fostering partnerships and knowledge exchange. We also engaged in youth-led climate action at LCOY Mombasa and led a mangrove restoration project in Kilifi.

Locally, we continue to scale up Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for organic certification, support pasture regeneration in arid areas, and integrate gender and youth in agroecology. The groundbreaking of our new office marks an exciting growth phase for the network.

As we move forward, we remain committed to empowering smallholder farmers and advancing Agroecology. Thank you for your continued support!

Strengthening the Aberdares: Advancing Policy for a Sustainable Future



Part of Muranga MSP sensitization on the Wetland and riparian policy and Alien & Invasive species policy



RODI & PELUM Kenya staff take a photo with Nyeri Deputy Governor during a courtesy meeting

The Aberdares Watershed Management Project is making significant strides towards a sustainable future for the Aberdares conservation area. In partnership with SACDEP, ICE, OACK, COSDEP, and RODI, the project is focused on developing essential environmental policies across Muranga, Nyeri, Nyandarua, and Kiambu counties. These policies are ranging from Wetland and Riparian Areas Conservation, Alien & Invasive species, NRM to Agroecology which are crucial for enhancing the region's resilience against climate change.

Despite few challenges experienced, the project remains on track to finalize these key policies by mid 2025. Noteworthy successes include Muranga's passage of two important policies: Alien & Invasive species and Wetland & Riparian conservation policies, Nyandarua's ongoing NRM policy drafts currently at an advanced stage of development, and Kiambu's good progress on Agroecology Policy & Act.

The project's adaptive approach—focusing on county priorities and engaging stakeholders early has kept momentum strong. As the project moves toward completion, it is set to leave a lasting impact on the sustainable management of the Aberdares ecosystem, securing a healthier and more resilient future for the region.



Kiambu County Assembly Members during a sensitization meeting on AE policy and practices at RODI Kenya



Nyandarua County CECM for NRM giving his remarks during the stakeholders engagement workshop at Olkaroo

Kenya Launches the National Agroecology Strategy: A Game Changer for Sustainable Food Systems

After years of collaboration, the National Agroecology for Food System Transformation Strategy (2024-2033) has officially been launched! On November 28, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, alongside the Intersectoral Forum for Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity (ISFAA), PELUM Kenya, and other partners, celebrated this milestone in a colorful event graced by the Cabinet Secretary (CS) for Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Principal Secretary for the State Department of Agriculture.

CS Dr. Andrew Karanja reaffirmed the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for agroecology, emphasizing its potential to enhance food security, promote sustainable consumption, and build climate-resilient agricultural systems. The strategy sets out five key objectives, including fostering sustainable agriculture, promoting healthy diets, and strengthening research and innovation. This landmark strategy paves the way for a more resilient and inclusive food system in Kenya.

Download and read the strategy at <https://kilimo.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/National-Agroecology-Strategy-for-Food-System-Transformation-2024-2033.pdf>



The Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Dr. Andrew Karanja and Principal Secretary Dr (2). Paul Rono perusing the National Agroecology Strategy after the launch on 28th November 2024



PELUM Kenya Hosts the 1st National Agroecology Symposium

Kenya marked a historic moment for agroecology with the 1st National Agroecology Symposium, held on November 6-7, 2024, at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies (KSMS). Themed "Sustainable Futures: Advancing Agroecology for Climate Resilience and Food Sovereignty," the symposium provided a vibrant platform for farmers, researchers, policymakers, investors, and civil society organizations to exchange ideas and drive Kenya's transition towards sustainable food systems.

Key discussions revolved around:

1. Policy and governance for agroecology
2. Agroecological practices for climate resilience
3. Finance and markets for agroecological transition
4. Scientific evidence supporting agroecology
5. The role of women and youth in agroecology

The event spotlighted innovative agroecological solutions, policy recommendations, and market opportunities that can accelerate the transition towards a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive food system in Kenya. The momentum from this symposium is set to shape national agricultural policies and inspire agroecology champions across the country!



Cultivating Change: INALL Exchange Program Boosts Agroecological Innovations



The Agro Ecology-Initiative Kenya delegation to Zimbabwe



Mr. Ngunjiri Kihoro of PELUM Kenya at a demonstration plot of the 52 by 28 farming model during an International exchange visit in Zimbabwe in 2024

The CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology launched the International Network of Agroecology Living Landscapes (INALL) to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration among multi-stakeholder platforms across eight countries, including Burkina Faso, India, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. As part of this initiative, teams from Kenya and Zimbabwe organized reciprocal exchange programs in 2024, aimed at exploring innovative agroecological practices.

In October 2024, a Kenyan delegation, comprising 16 diverse stakeholders including farmers and government officials, visited Zimbabwe to engage with local agroecological initiatives.

Their itinerary included:

1. CIMMYT Offices in Harare: The team learned about sustainable agrifood systems and key strategies for agroecological implementation in Zimbabwe, including seed systems and breeding strategies.
2. Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre: This training hub promotes sustainable practices through peer learning. The delegation toured various facilities, gaining insights into agroecological technologies used in Zimbabwe.
3. Mbire District: After engaging with local stakeholders, the Kenyan team visited farms to observe agroecological practices such as minimum tillage and organic production methods. They noted the use of the “52 by 28” model for year-round food security.
4. Agroecology Seed and Livestock Fair: Participation in this fair allowed the team to connect with the local community and learn about resources available for sustainable farming.

Key lessons from the exchange included the importance of agroecological resource centers in knowledge transfer, the significance of inclusive partnerships among various stakeholders, and the role of the private sector in fostering sustainable value chains.

Overall, the INALL exchange highlighted the potential of collaborative agroecological practices to enhance food systems and resilience in both Kenya and Zimbabwe.

COP16 IN RIYADH: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR LAND

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) hosted its 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2–13, 2024, under the theme "Our Land, Our Future." The Senior Capacity and Enhancement Officer participated in the event, which led to the adoption of 35 resolutions tackling critical environmental challenges such as land degradation, drought, and migration.

The conference emphasized the need for science, research, and innovation while prioritizing the empowerment of women, youth, civil society, and indigenous communities. Notably, sustainable agricultural food systems and rangeland management were introduced as key themes, marking a significant step in global climate action.

YOUTH DRIVE CLIMATE ACTION AT LCOY MOMBASA



From September 17–19, 2024, Mombasa hosted the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), bringing together over 100 young climate advocates from across Kenya. The event aimed to mobilize youth participation in climate change action, with a strong call for COP29 to prioritize funding for agroecology. The highlight of the conference was a Caravan Walk in Kilifi, symbolizing youth solidarity in climate justice. PELUM Kenya supported 6 youth to participate in this conference to call out for phase out of fossil fuel based agrochemicals and increase financing and support of National adaptation plans. Discussions focused on Kenya's commitment to submitting crucial climate reports by the end of 2024 and early 2025, underscoring the nation's dedication to global climate processes.



Greening the Coast: Mangrove Restoration in Takaungu



On 29th November 2024, PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with the Kenya Scout Association, led a successful mangrove restoration initiative in Takaungu, Kilifi. We planted 1,000 mangrove seedlings, reinforcing efforts to protect the coastline and combat climate change.

The Kivurini Community Association played a vital role in ensuring the survival of the seedlings. During the event, they sensitized 37 participants (36 of whom were youth) on the crucial role of mangroves in ecosystem conservation. This initiative highlights the power of community-led conservation in safeguarding Kenya's coastal ecosystems. By engaging youth and local communities, the project fosters long-term environmental stewardship and resilience.



DID YOU KNOW?

Why Mangroves Matter:

1. Protect coastlines from erosion
2. Absorb carbon, reducing climate impact
3. Provide a habitat for marine life
4. Support local livelihoods

PELUM KENYA REPRESENTED AT THE COP 29 IN BAKU , AZERBEIJAN



From left- Ms. Manei Naanyu Head of Programmes (PELUM Kenya), Bob Aston- ALIN, Dr. Hernandez Edmond-CHD group, Ledama Masidza- Youth leader in conservation and food systems, Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, Country Coordinator (PELUM Kenya) after a panel discussion on Agroecology as a climate bold solution during CoP 29 in Baku , Azerbaijan



Networking meeting with NoW partners

At COP 29 in Baku, PELUM Kenya presented Agroecology as a climate-resilient solution, emphasizing indigenous seeds, farm diversification, and the need for public investment in agroecology. They also engaged with NOW partners, who showed interest in collaborating on regenerative agriculture projects in Kenya.

Additionally, in Cuba, the Head of Programmes attended a workshop on national and sub-national agroecology policies, alongside Mr. Gitahi from Murang'a County Government and Ms. Manei, who presented on Kenya's National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation. The event provided insights into how different countries are progressing in agroecology policies and the shared challenges they face. PELUM Kenya remains committed to advocating for agroecology, ensuring that smallholder farmers are at the heart of policy dialogues and global discussions.

SIDE EVENTS PELUM KENYA PARTICIPATED AT THE COP 29

PELUM Kenya's Global Engagements: Strengthening Agroecology and Organic Movements

PELUM Kenya recently had the privilege of representing the organization on global platforms, including the Organic World Congress (OWC) in Chiayi County, Taiwan, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan. These engagements provided invaluable opportunities for networking, learning, and raising the organization's visibility on the international stage.

A key highlight at the OWC was learning about Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in Kenya, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Brazil. Brazil stands out with a national law recognizing PGS, allowing smallholder farmers to supply organic products to schools through government tenders. Some key recommendations for strengthening PGS globally included ensuring farmer-led participation, maintaining integrity, simplifying processes, increasing government recognition, and enhancing community engagement. However, challenges such as market access and bureaucratic regulations persist across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

PELUM Kenya, as a member of the International Forum for Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM), participated in the General Assembly elections in Taiwan. We are happy to report that our Country Coordinator was co-opted to the IFOAM World Board.

PELUM KENYA REPRESENTED AT THE WORLD ORGANIC CONGRESS IN TAIWAN



SCALING UP SEED BULKING AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT IN ASAL REGIONS



From October 24–25, 2025, members of PELUM Kenya engaged in a transformative workshop on seed bulking and pasture management in Baringo County. The event focused on sharing best practices for sustainable rangeland management, particularly for pastoralist communities in Lower Eastern, Coastal, Upper Eastern, and Northern Regions.



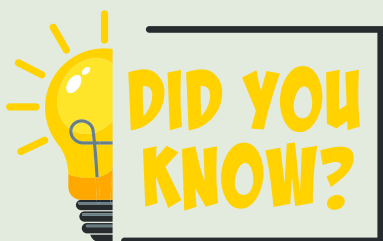
Participants visited Laomolok and Eldeve villages, where they explored reseeding technologies and witnessed firsthand the impact of *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Foxtail buffalo grass) in restoring degraded land. An impressive 70 acres have already been reseeded, signaling a promising future for pasture regeneration in arid and semi-arid areas.

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY: FARMERS TAKING CHARGE OF THEIR FUTURE

For years, farmers have been the backbone of our food systems, yet their voices have often been overlooked in decision-making. Now, they are taking a stand. Across counties, farmers are engaging their governments on planning and budget allocation, ensuring sustainable agriculture, climate mitigation, agroforestry, and water justice are prioritized.

The GSAILI project, in partnership with WEGFA, KIimaeti, 3KM, WETPA, KSA, IDP Kulamusana, Kwetu, and ADS Pwani, trained farmers on budget formulation, analysis, and petition submission to influence the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Farmers can now demand access to farm inputs, reliable agricultural information, better roads, climate mitigation partnerships, and water management involvement. They are committed to holding their governments accountable, ensuring budget allocations align with actual implementation. Through social audits, they verify that agri-food projects address real challenges and resources are well utilized.



Farmers no longer see advocacy as someone else's role. They are stepping up, pushing for policies that reflect their needs. Their message is clear: the government must engage farmers in every step of planning to create a resilient and sustainable agricultural system.

World Food Day 2024: Celebrating the Right to Food in Tharaka Nithi

On October 16, 2024, PELUM Kenya's UENK zone, in partnership with the Tharaka Children and Women Welfare Programme, marked World Food Day in Marimanti, Tharaka Nithi County. Themed Right to Food for a Better Life and Future - Leave No One Behind, the event emphasized the need for diverse, nutritious, affordable, and safe food for all.

The celebration featured exhibitions showcasing organic food production, agroecology technologies, environmental conservation, indigenous seeds, and herbal medicines. Farmers, learning institutions, private sector representatives, and special groups, including mentally challenged and deaf community members, participated in discussions advocating for sustainable and accessible food production.

Key stakeholders, including county government officials, engaged in plenary sessions, speeches, and knowledge-sharing forums on food security and agroecology. The event culminated in a tree-planting session at Kamatungu Primary School, where over 500 indigenous and fruit tree seedlings were planted to promote environmental sustainability.

World Food Day celebrations continue to be a vital platform for highlighting the role of organic food in nutritional security. More importantly, they reinforce the importance of partnerships and collaborations in building sustainable food systems that ensure no one is left behind in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.



Exhibition learning sessions during the World Food Day



Celebrating World Soil Day 2025 in Tharaka Nithi

On December 5, 2024, PELUM Kenya's Upper Eastern and North Zone celebrated World Soil Day at RIDEP Centre, Marimanti, under the theme Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage. The event highlighted the importance of healthy soils for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. Key stakeholders, including county officials, learning institutions, private sector representatives, and special groups, joined the discussions. Farmers shared experiences on soil conservation, emphasizing practices like minimum tillage, crop rotation, cover cropping, and water harvesting techniques.

The event concluded with a visit to RIDEP's dryland agroecology demonstration farm, showcasing soil management, water conservation, and sustainable farming innovations. The celebration reinforced the critical role of soil health in food security and climate resilience.



Left: Group photo during marking of World Soil Day Right: A section of participants learning from RIDEP Dryland agroecology demo site

Strengthening Local Organic Markets: PELUM Kenya Champions PGS Growth

On August 2, 2024, PELUM Kenya's Country Coordinator, Rosinah Mbenya, was the Chief Guest at the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) Graduation for 11 new Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Assessors and Trainers. This marks a key milestone in strengthening local organic markets by increasing the number of trained professionals who can assess and certify organic farmers using the PGS model. The event also saw participation from National Committee Members and 17 PGS participants, reinforcing the commitment to organic agriculture.

Between September and November 2024, PELUM Kenya organized five PGS trainings for farmer groups (138 farmers) across Kisumu, Machakos, Laikipia, and Kajiado counties. Most of these farmers are engaged in herbs, vegetables, poultry, and value addition. Smart Point Integrated Youth Group (affiliated to CREPP) in Nyalenda Slums, having leased land, opted for third-party certification instead of PGS, as peer review dynamics did not apply.



Looking ahead to 2025, PELUM Kenya will support the certification process for four farmer groups: Kochogo Central Organic Farmers in Ahero (affiliated to CREPP) , Mukameni Organic Farmers in Machakos (affiliated to KOAN) , Lekiji Farmers Group (affiliated to LPC) , and Organic Heritage Farmers Group (affiliated to CSHEP). These groups will also benefit from additional capacity-building efforts, including value addition training, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and exposure visits.

Organic certification plays a vital role in promoting organic farming, ensuring credibility in organic markets, and enhancing farmers' access to better opportunities in sustainable agriculture.

Green Action Week 2024: PELUM Kenya Champions Sustainable Consumption in Makueni



On October 16, 2024, PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with Utooni Development Organization (UDO), hosted the Green Action Week (GAW) celebrations at Kisayani Primary School, Makueni County. Under the theme "Sharing Communities," the event aimed to promote sustainable consumption and agroecological practices.

The day featured a lively procession advocating organic farming, tree planting at community sites, and exhibitions showcasing indigenous seeds, organic foods, and sustainable crafts. Key stakeholders, including government representatives, farmers, and international guests, engaged in insightful discussions on ecological land use management. Media coverage amplified the message, reinforcing PELUM Kenya's commitment to a greener future. The event highlighted the power of collaboration in fostering resilient and food-secure communities.

Lights, Camera, Agroecology! PELUM Kenya & Island Reach Partner for Transformative Video Series

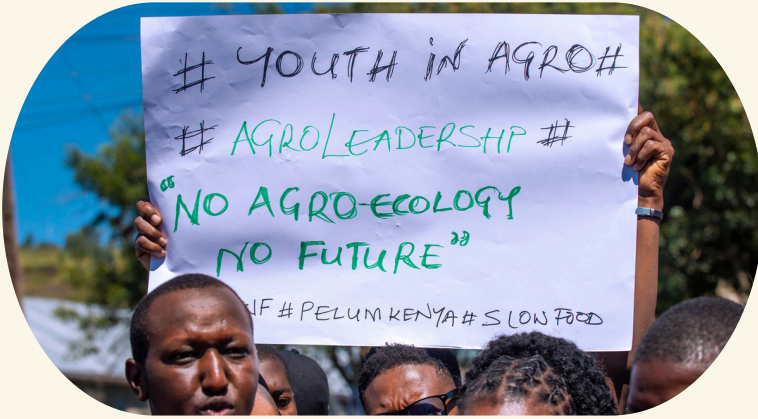


PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with Island Reach, embarked on a groundbreaking video production initiative to amplify agroecology messaging. This project will highlight the work of PELUM Kenya Member Organizations (Manor House Agriculture Centre (MHAC), CSHEP (Ndeiya and Kiserian), Laikipia Permaculture Centre, Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK), ADS Western) and engaged key audiences, including policymakers, trainers, and farming communities.



Filming took place at six selected sites with the partners co-producing the videos ensuring alignment with their work. This initiative aims to enhance agroecology visibility and inspire meaningful change.

Integration of Gender and Youth in Agroecology



Celebrating Youth in Agroecology: Digital Pathways for Progress

August is a special month dedicated to celebrating youth and amplifying their voices. This year's theme, "From Clicks to Progress - Digital Pathways for Youths," highlighted the role of technology in youth empowerment. PELUM Kenya actively engaged young people in discussions on agroecology and their role in building sustainable food systems.

The celebrations kicked off in Nakuru with Slow Food, where youth deliberated on their aspirations in agroecology. In Bungoma, the Agroforestry for Sustainable Livelihood (ASILIB) youth arm hosted a caravan and dialogue on digital innovations in agroforestry and biodiversity conservation. To culminate the Youth Month, PELUM Kenya organized the National Youth Forum in Nakuru, gathering 57 youths from 41 counties and 33 network members. Discussions focused on value chains in agroforestry, agribusiness, and agrotourism. The event concluded with a peaceful caravan and a visit to Be My Partner Youth Group, where youth explored circular economy models and sustainable agribusiness growth.

Gender Learning Visit in Uganda: Strengthening Inclusion in Agroecology



Gender and social inclusion are central to the PELUM network. In a learning exchange hosted in Kampala, PELUM Kenya and PELUM Uganda came together to share best practices in integrating gender into agroecology, advocacy, and agribusiness. PELUM Uganda showcased transformative approaches that have enhanced gender equality in their projects, training the Kenya team on the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) methodology. A visit to farmer groups using GALS for three years revealed impressive impacts—land ownership, expanded okra markets, and shared responsibilities. Families are now using GALS to plan their futures and challenge harmful social norms

Upcoming Key events

2025





THE AWOLA INITIATIVE

Inspiring Leadership Development of African Women in Agroecology



Call for Mentors and Mentees



Deadline: 1st April 2025

awola.pelumkenya.net  Click on website to apply

 Scan to apply





Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development

THE 2ND EASTERN AFRICA AGROECOLOGY CONFERENCE

25th-28th March

VENUE Argyle Grand Hotel
Nairobi Airport

THEME
Strengthening Agri-Food System Transformation for Resilience, Sustainability and Socioeconomic Development

RATES

African Delegates	250 USD	International Delegates	300 USD
Farmer & Student Delegates	100 USD	Online Delegates	200 USD

ADD ONS

Field Excursion	50 USD	Gala Dinner	100 USD
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Would you like to sponsor farmers or students to attend the conference?

Sponsor groups of 20 farmers/students	\$2,000 per group
Sponsor groups of 50 farmers/students	\$5,000 per group
Sponsor groups of 100 farmers/students	\$10,000 per group
Sponsor groups of 200 farmers/students	\$20,000 per group
Sponsor farmers or SMEs to exhibit	\$500 per Booth

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JULY
10

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY
11- 12

2ND NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY CONFERENCE

OCT
16

WORLD FOOD DAY

For inquiries/contributions, email us on: events@pelumkenya.net

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