



PELUM KENYA



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ISSUE 03 MARCH 2025



His Excellency Hon. Joshua Irungu, the Governor Laikipia County and Ms. Rosinah Mbenya County Coordinator PELUM Kenya signing the MOU

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.

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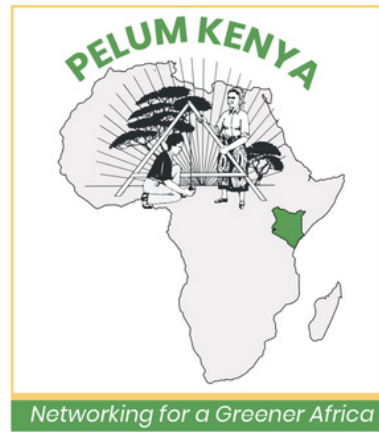
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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR



By Rosinah Mbenya



Dear PELUM Kenya Members, Partners, Friends and Stakeholders,

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I reflect on the milestones we have achieved as a network this past quarter. From grassroots action to global representation, PELUM Kenya continues to advance the agroecology agenda with strength and clarity. One of our key highlights was signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Government of Laikipia to mainstream agroecological practices in local policies. This collaboration signifies a strong commitment to scaling farmer-centered and environmentally sound agriculture.

Internationally, our presence was felt at the Biofach Trade Fair in Germany and the EU DeSIRA Lift Conference in Belgium, where we emphasized the importance of placing smallholder farmers at the heart of research and innovation. We also advocated for stronger food system governance, reduced food loss, and gender and youth inclusion in agri-food systems.

Locally, we intensified efforts in capacity building and knowledge sharing through Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) training and zonal planning meetings that strengthen farmer networks and seed sovereignty.

As we prepare for upcoming national events, including our AGM and Agroecology Symposium in July, I encourage each one of us to remain inspired, stay connected, and continue championing farmer voices. Together, we are not just practicing agroecology—we are nurturing a movement rooted in justice, ecology, and hope.

In solidarity,
Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya

Transzoia Agroecology Policy Process

PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with the County Government of Trans Nzoia and Manor House Agricultural Centre, convened an agroecology sensitization forum bringing together key stakeholders in the agricultural sector.

During the forum, participants highlighted pressing challenges affecting the county, including declining soil fertility, environmental degradation, and the erosion of Agrobiodiversity. These issues were largely attributed to unsustainable farming practices. The forum served as a platform to raise awareness about agroecology and its potential to address these challenges. Stakeholders emphasized the urgent need to strengthen the legal and policy framework to promote and scale up agroecological practices across the county.

PELUM Kenya signs MoU with County Government of Laikipia



His Excellency Hon. Joshua Irungu, the Governor Laikipia County and Ms. Rosinah Mbenya County Coordinator PELUM Kenya signing the MOU

PELUM Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Laikipia County to promote agroecological practices and support the development of a comprehensive agroecology strategy. The partnership aims to engage stakeholders in fostering agroecological practices among farmers and pastoralists in the county.

The MOU signing ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Laikipia County Government, alongside PELUM Kenya staff, marking the beginning of a collaborative effort to drive positive change in the county's agricultural sector by promoting agroecology.

Strengthening Organic Futures: Insights from the Biofach and KCOA Networking Meeting



Photos during the Biofach Trade Fair and KCOA Networking meetings

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) Project, under GIZ, together with PENELLI IV, proudly supported the participation of Kenyan delegates at the Biofach and KCOA Networking Meeting held from 11th to 13th February 2025 in Nuremberg, Germany.

Sebastian Wambugu, the PELUM Kenya Board Treasurer, and Moraa Ratemo, Programme Officer, Knowledge Hub and Communications, represented Kenya and actively contributed to critical discussions shaping the future of organic agriculture. Additionally, Sylvia Kuria, an advocate for organic retail in Kenya, participated with the support of GIZ, sharing invaluable insights into the country's organic retail landscape.

The sessions revolved around the exciting evolution into KCOA 2.0, with a strong focus on ensuring sustainability beyond the current funding period. A transition team is set to be established in March 2025 to guide the next steps.

KCOA 2.0 will be structured around five major pillars:

- Policy & Advocacy: Amplifying organic agriculture's influence in policy spaces.
- Networking & Linkages: Strengthening the organic movement through regional and global partnerships.
- Knowledge Management: Systematic capturing and sharing of organic best practices.
- Capacity Building: Empowering farmers and organic actors with enhanced skills and training.
- Entrepreneurship and Markets: Growing opportunities for organic products and enterprises.

Looking Ahead



With vibrant exchanges, renewed partnerships, and clear strategic pillars, the Biofach and KCOA Networking Meeting in Nuremberg set a strong foundation for the future of organic agriculture in Africa. Thanks to the committed efforts of individuals like Sebastian Wambugu, Moraa Ratemo, and Sylvia Kuria, and the support of GIZ and PENELLI IV, the momentum towards a greener, more sustainable future continues to build.

GROWING CHANGE THROUGH PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS) CERTIFICATION



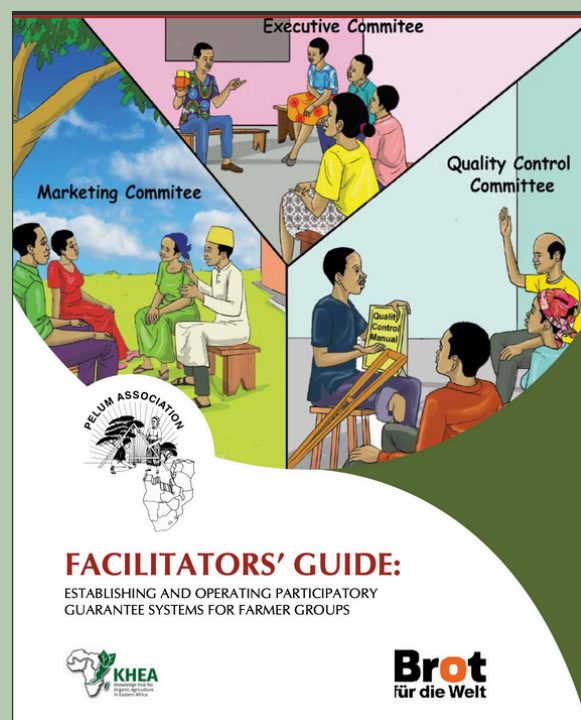
Group photo for the Kenya Delegates who participated in the PGS Training by IFOAM and BROT. Organizations represented were PELUM Kenya, BIBA Kenya, RODI Kenya and Tenwek Hospital Community Health & Development (TENWEK)



Group photo of the participants in the PGS Training as we visited Kaki PGS Group (in Kagio, Kirinyaga County) supported by Slowfood Kenya

PELUM Kenya staff and Member Organizations (RODI Kenya and Tenwek Hospital Community Health & Development (TENWEK)) participated in a dynamic PGS (Participatory Guarantee Systems) training at Sagana Gateway, facilitated by Patricia Flores (IFOAM) and Sylvia Kuria. The training included an inspiring visit to the Kaki Seed Bank, where we witnessed a powerful ripple effect — farmers have already established one additional seed bank, with two more underway. A major highlight was the awarding of Certificates from IFOAM to PELUM Kenya staff, certifying them as Trainers of Trainers (ToT) for PGS. This milestone will significantly strengthen the PELUM Kenya Network's efforts to expand organic certification and community empowerment

PGS Resources



HOW PGS WORKS

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) facilitator's guide

RIFT WESTERN KENYA ZONAL PLANNING AND ZONAL STEERING MEETING



RWKZ members during an exchange learning at one of BIOGI's farmers in Vihiga county

Members from RWKZ started the zonal planning with an exchange learning at Mr. Ayub's farm who is a farmer affiliated with BIOGI. This is a decision that the members made as a way of strengthening horizontal learning and facilitate sharing of experiences and knowledge creation based on real life experiments .

At Ayub's farm, the members learnt farm design and planning, integration of different crops, preparation of bio-inputs, seed saving and management of livestock integration into crop production.

The 2025 Zonal Planning meeting was hosted by Bio-Gardening innovations (BIOGI) in Vihiga County. Attended by atleast 17 member organizations of the zone they were able to share key events for collaborations. They were able to share their new projects and previous successes. the PSAMY participant who was based at BIOGI was in attendance too and he was able to share his area of expertise i.e marketing.

The members will be engaging and consulting him in future on issues concerning marketing. The next Zonal planning meeting TENWEK in Bomet will be hosting the members . This practice is to encourage horizontal learning and challenge the members on how they operate at the organisation level.



RWKZ members at BIOGI hall during the zonal Planning meeting



Group photo of the RWKZ steering Committee members

The zonal steering committee held a one day meeting at Roddy's eco-lodge . the committee was able to review the TOR and and developed the zonal Mission and Vision which is aligned to PELUM Kenya's.

The committee was able to discuss zonal issues that affect the zone as well as initiatives that will ensure the zone is vibrant and its visibility acknowledged.

Strengthening Agroecology and Participation: Highlights from PELUM Kenya's February 2025 Activities

As the year begins, PELUM Kenya continues to lead the way in promoting agroecological transformation, farmer empowerment, and inclusive governance. Two key activities in February 2025—the Nairobi and Central Zone strategic meeting and a budget participation workshop in Nyandarua—highlight the organization's commitment to collaborative planning and farmer-led change.

Planning for 2025: Nairobi & Central Zone Meeting

On February 2025, PELUM Kenya's Nairobi and Central Zone convened 22 member organizations to reflect on 2024 and chart a path forward for 2025. The meeting showcased the success of PENELI IV activities, including efforts in advocacy, agro-enterprise development, youth engagement, gender empowerment, and climate resilience.

Members shared inspiring stories of farmer training, public engagement, and agroecology awareness efforts across the region. However, common challenges emerged—particularly around market access, certification bottlenecks, and limited alignment among stakeholders.



Photos of the participants/member organizations who participated in the zonal planning for Nairobi and Central Zone

Empowering Farmers in Nyandarua Through Budget Participation: A Step Towards Inclusive Governance

On February 18–19, PELUM Kenya—under the PENELI IV program funded by SSNC/BROT—organized a two-day workshop in Ol Joroorok, Nyandarua County, aimed at empowering farmers to engage in public budgeting processes.

With support from partners Caritas Nyahururu and SACDEP Kenya, and facilitation by CJPC's Zakkay Onkware, farmers gained insight into Kenya's budgeting framework and reviewed the 2025 County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP). Participants learned how to develop memoranda that reflect their agricultural priorities.



Photos of the participants/member organizations who participated in the zonal planning for Nairobi and Central Zone

Collaboration, Planning, and Youth Inclusion: Highlights from the Upper Eastern and North Kenya Zone Meeting

In February 2025, PELUM Kenya's Upper Eastern and North Kenya Zone (UENKZ) marked a key milestone in regional agroecology planning through two pivotal events: the Zonal Steering Committee Meeting and the Zonal Planning Meeting, both held on 20th and 21st February at Caritas Meru in Meru County.

The gatherings brought together representatives from all member organizations across the zone. Participants reviewed progress from 2024, shared updates from ongoing projects, and collaboratively shaped the roadmap for 2025. These discussions laid a strong foundation for strengthened coordination, shared learning, and impactful programming.



Group photo during UENKZ Zonal Planning meeting at Caritas Meru

The 2025 zonal work plan was formally presented and shared, aligning with PENELI IV priorities. Members engaged in meaningful discussions to finalize the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Zonal Steering Committee, offering inputs that shaped the final draft. This ensures a clearer mandate and accountability structure for zonal coordination moving forward.

The forum also identified areas for collaboration, particularly around celebrating key environmental and agricultural calendar days. Joint initiatives will foster visibility, community participation, and unified messaging across counties. These meetings reinforced the zone's dedication to collective impact through structured planning, collaboration, and inclusivity. With a strong 2025 work plan, renewed leadership structures, and youth participation on the agenda, the Upper Eastern and North Kenya Zone is well-positioned to drive agroecological transformation.



Group photo during the Zonal Steering Committee Meeting in Meru.

Driving Agroecological Change in Lower Eastern and Coast Zone (LECZ)



Practices on display during the organic farmers' demo site at the 3000 organic farm in Rimpa on 12 April 2025



Photo during compost piles by farmers from Wundanyi and Mwatate sub-counties.



Vision to Action and co-design workshop organized by the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT under the CGIAR in CSHEP and DNRC in Kiambu and Makueni Counties on 19th and 21st April 2025..

In 2025, PELUM Kenya's Lower Eastern and Coast Zone (LECZ) is making bold strides in agroecological transformation through strategic planning, farmer-led innovation, and practical training. With a focus on sustainability and inclusion, recent events in Machakos, Taita Taveta, Kiserian, Kiambu, and Makueni reflect growing momentum toward climate resilience and food sovereignty.

At the LECZ Steering and Planning Meeting on 27th February, 11 member organizations aligned their 2025 activities with PENELI IV, focusing on advocacy, biofertilizer training, farmer barazas, and learning visits. The meeting emphasized joint planning, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilization. Subgrant proposals were reviewed, including livestock value addition (UDO) and demo sites (TTWF), and members were urged to maintain contributions for network sustainability.

On 9th March, AEMD led hands-on training in Taita Taveta, teaching farmers to make and use natural inputs like ash brew and plant-based repellents. On 12th April, the Organic Farmers' Day at 3000 Friend Organic Farm in Kiserian showcased organic produce, integrated farming, and the benefits of reduced chemical use. Both events highlighted the need for more publicity, indigenous food promotion, and structured learning.

In Kiambu and Makueni, V2A workshops in April engaged 102 farmers to review and improve trial treatments. Despite limited staff, the sessions enabled strong collaboration, with farmers valuing their active role. Future plans include providing tailored technical support and strengthening partnerships.

These activities signal a growing agroecology movement in the region—centered on farmer knowledge, community trust, and sustainable practices. As LECZ advances coordinated trials, training, and outreach, partners are urged to stay involved and support the agroecological transition across Kenya.

Launching PSAMY Cohort 3: Youth Exchange for Sustainable Agriculture



A new chapter in youth empowerment has begun! PSAMY Cohort 3 officially launched in January 2025 at Nairobi's Safari Park Hotel, bringing together ten dynamic young leaders from Kenya and Zimbabwe. This innovative exchange, jointly implemented by PELUM Kenya and FACHIG Zimbabwe, is part of the broader PSAMY initiative—focused on building youth capacity in agriculture, value chains, and agro-markets.

Over the next 10 months, participants will engage with local farmers, facilitating training sessions on sustainable agriculture, marketing, and climate resilience. Prior to deployment, they underwent intensive preparation, including cross-cultural orientation and deep dives into agri-business and ecological farming practices.

The aim

To reach 300 farmers across Kenya and Zimbabwe—helping them improve productivity, income, and sustainability. More importantly, these young leaders hope to inspire a new generation of agroecological entrepreneurs across Africa.

As the third cohort kicks off, the PSAMY project continues to plant seeds of hope, innovation, and youth-driven change in Africa's agri-food systems.

PHOTO SPEAK



PSAMY Project Cohort III launch with lead farmers – Ward 14, Bindura District.



Shona language learning in progress—fostering connection through cultural exchange.



Team conducts agri-supply chain assessment for key insights by eMKambo.



Participants gathering insights in the agricultural supply chain to identify key actors, gaps, and opportunities.



Stakeholders gather for the project inception meeting marking the start of collaborative action.

Embedding Agroecology in Trade Policy: Why Trade Policy Matters for Agroecology

Side Event at the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference Angyle Hotel, Nairobi _ 25th-28th March 2025



PELUM Kenya's Head of Programmes joined other experts in a panel discussion at the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference to highlight the vital link between trade policy and agroecology in support of smallholder farmers and sustainable food systems.

PELUM Kenya, represented by the Head of Programmes, participated in a side event organized in collaboration with Both ENDS during the 2nd Eastern Africa Agroecology Conference. The session focused on unpacking the complex intersections between trade policy and agroecology, revealing how prevailing global trade frameworks can obstruct sustainable food systems and biodiversity conservation.

Through an engaging panel discussion and an interactive workshop, participants—ranging from farmers and policy advocates to trade experts—delved into lived experiences and critical analysis of current trade mechanisms. Key highlights included:

- Challenges faced by agroecological farmers under existing trade rules.
- Policy gaps that hinder equitable and sustainable food systems.
- Grassroots movements pushing for seed sovereignty and trade justice.
- Actionable recommendations for national, regional, and global trade policy reform.

The session empowered stakeholders to advocate for trade agreements that uplift smallholder farmers, protect local economies, and support environmental sustainability. It was a crucial contribution to the broader push for fairer food systems and resilient agroecological practices.

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX

The Global Hunger Index 2024 in Kenya was launched on 4th March in Nairobi by the Cabinet Secretary of EAC, ASALs and Regional Development, Ms. Beatrice Moe. The launch was convened by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide. PELUM Kenya Head of Programmes represented the organization in this important event.

The theme for this year was Gender Justice : A pathway to climate resilience and zero hunger where the need of addressing gender inequality was underscored as critical to climate resilience and reduction of hunger. It was noted that over the past decade the world wide progress against hunger has slowed down to a troubling degree and the goal of zero hunger by 2030 now appears unreachable. The situation is most severe in South Saharan Africa and South Asia.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

1. Hunger is serious or alarming in 42 Countries.
2. Multiple crisis are complicating the effort to reduce hunger- climate change, conflicts/war, high food prices, market disruptions and covid.
3. Gender justice is a cornerstone to achieving climate resilience and food and nutrition security.
4. Past success shows progress is possible- need to accelerate progress towards shaping equitable, nutritious and resilient food systems.

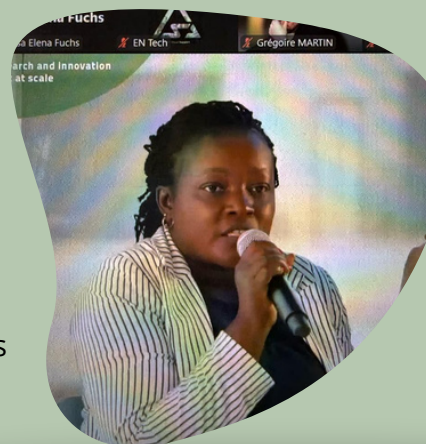
Further, the report had the following policy recommendations;

1. Strengthen accountability to international law and the enforceability of the right to adequate food.
 2. Promote gender transformative approaches to food systems and climate policies and programmes.
 3. Make investments that integrate and promote gender, climate and food justice.
- promoting agroecology and gender equality to transform our food systems to be resilient and sustainable.

Boosting Research and Innovation for Impact at Scale: PELUM Kenya at the EU DeSIRA Lift Event

PELUM Kenya continues to make its voice heard on global platforms, this time in Belgium at the Boosting Research and Innovation Cooperation for Impact at Scale event organized by EU DeSIRA Lift. Representing the Network is Rosinah Mbenya, PELUM Kenya's Country Coordinator, who joined a high-level panel discussing "Lessons from the DeSIRA Regional Conference."

This international forum brought together key players in agriculture, research, innovation, and development to explore pathways for scaling sustainable impacts across food systems. During the opening session, Rosinah shared powerful insights drawn from PELUM's experiences across Eastern and Southern Africa.



1. **Tackle food, nature, and climate change in an integrated way**
2. **Strengthen food system governance** through inclusive policy formulation and robust implementation strategies.
3. **Place small-scale farmers at the center of research and innovation efforts**, ensuring they are not just beneficiaries, but co-creators of knowledge and solutions.
4. **Cut down on food loss and waste**.
5. **Adopt tools like TAPE (Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation) and MAP (Monitoring Agroecology Performance)** to effectively measure agroecological transitions and impact.
6. **Invest in networking and multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs)** to build collaboration and knowledge-sharing among actors in the agri-food space
7. **Support gender equity, youth empowerment, and social inclusion** as pillars of resilient and just food systems.



Strengthening Africa's Climate Voice: PELUM Kenya Participates in Strategic Pre-SB62 Meeting in Nairobi

The African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES), in collaboration with key partners including the Government of Kenya, FAO, UN Foundation, CARE, ABC, and ILRI, convened a strategic Pre-SB62 meeting from 25–28 February 2025 at Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting aimed to align Africa's priorities ahead of the June UNFCCC SB62 session by focusing on key negotiation streams such as the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), Climate Finance, Agriculture and Food Security, Gender, and Human Mobility.



Participants of the Pre-SB62 Strategy Meeting held from 25–28 February 2025 in Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together key stakeholders including AGNES, government representatives & development partners to align Africa's priorities ahead of the UNFCCC SB62 negotiations.

Upcoming Key events

2025



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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