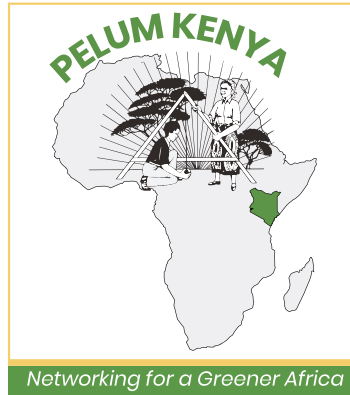


PELUM KENYA

Annual Report 2024





PELUM KENYA

Annual Report 2024

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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.

Editorial: **PELUM KENYA**

Design, Layout, and Printed by: **Opamex Supplies**

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	PRI	Permaculture Research Institution
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	TTWF	Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum
IEC	Information, Education, Communication	UNFCCC	United Nations framework convention on Climate Change
ICIPE	International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology	UENKZ	Upper Eastern and Northern Region Zone
IPM	Integrated Pest Management	WED	World Environment Day
IFK	INADES Formation Kenya	WFD	World Food Day
ISFAA	Inter Sectoral Forum for Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity	WRUA	Water Resource Users Association
KARLO	Kenya Agricultural Research and Livestock Organization	ZC	Zonal Coordinator
KDC	Kitui Development Center		
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Organization		
KTDA	Kenya Tea Development Authority		

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.

Thematic Areas

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.



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 favor 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 involvement the people going.

About PELUM Kenya

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network that currently comprises 63 Member Organizations (M.O.s). Its members mandate PELUM Kenya to promote agroecological 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



PELUM Kenya Member Organization



PELUM Kenya Network is divided into four (4) zones based on geographical regions as follows:

Central and Nairobi Zone

18 Member Organizations

Rift-Western Kenya Zone

21 Member Organizations

Lower Eastern and Coast Zone

11 Member Organizations

Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone

13 Member Organizations

Central and Nairobi Zone

Zonal Working Group Members:

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 (EIPMA).
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. Koppert Kenya.
13. Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT).
14. Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK).
15. Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) Kenya Self Help Africa (SHA).
16. Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP).
17. Youth Acton for Rural Development (YARD).

Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone

Zonal Working Group Members:

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 the 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. Strategies for Agro Pastoralist Development (SAPAD).
11. Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP).
12. TAI Community Based Organization.
13. Tharaka Children & Women Welfare Programme.

Lower Eastern and Coast Zone

Zonal Working Group Members:

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 Centre (DNRC).
6. Inades Formation Kenya (IFK).
7. Katoloni Mission CBO.
8. Kitui Development Centre (KDC).
9. Neighbours Initiative Alliance (NIA).
10. Taita Taveta Wildlife Foundation (TTWF).
11. Utooni Development Organization (UDO).

Rift-Western Kenya Zone

Zonal Working Group Members:

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 Agricultural Centre (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. Indigenous Women and Girls Initiative (IWGI).
11. Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP).
12. Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC).
13. Network for Eco farming in Africa (NECOFA).
14. Ripple Effect.
15. Rural Energy and Food Security Organization (REFSO).
16. Slow food Convivia Association of Kenya (SFCaK).
17. Support for Tropical Initiatives (STIPA).
18. Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resource Technologies (SMART) Initiatives.
19. Tenwek Hospital Community Health & Development.
20. Trans-Community Organization (TRANSCOM).
21. VI Agroforestry.

Benefits of Being a PELUM Kenya Member

1. Capacity Development for members on governance, finance management, operating systems, structures, technical aspects (M& E, extension, resource mobilization), etc.
2. Increased linkages of members and their staff to others members and partners via learning, exposure and exchange visits.
3. Spreading and scaling up of best practices and ripple effect through sharing and networking.
4. Joint activities e.g. campaign, advocacy and lobbying and hence can influence policy – there is strength in numbers.
5. The members can “benchmark” with other members and partners of the association and hence improve their profile and capacity
6. Members get direct links to the world via PELUM websites thus increasing their visibility and the profile of the members.
7. Broadening the members’ skills-base, donor- base, partner base and hence resource base
8. Increases the implementation capacity of the members and thus promoting local networking
9. Providing a reference to PELUM-Kenya members
10. Providing a forum for information sharing e.g. publications, reports, research reports, updates etc.

Types of Membership

Full Member (Voting)

Individual Associates (non-voting)

Sponsor Associates (non-voting)

Corporate Associate (non-voting)

Temporary Member (non-voting)



Foreword from the Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am honoured to present the 2024 Annual Report for the PELUM Kenya Secretariat. This report captures not only the milestones, progress, and stories of transformation achieved throughout the year, but also reflects the resilience, unity, and continued relevance of our mission—to promote agroecology as a pathway to sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship.



Janet Mumo
Chairperson, PELUM Kenya

The year 2024 was one of growth, connection, and renewed purpose. We held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Vick Mark Hotel in Nakuru, attended by 53 delegates representing our Member Organizations from across Kenya. It was a moment to reflect on the network's journey, discuss strategic priorities, and ratify the inclusion of three new organizations into the network:

- Koppert Ltd
- Indigenous Women and Girls Initiative (IWMI)
- TAI CBO

This brought the total number of PELUM Kenya Member Organizations to 63, expanding our collective voice and reinforcing our grassroots impact.

We also marked a key leadership transition at Board level. Director Mercy Thurairara, representing the Nairobi and Central Zone, completed her first term and was re-elected for a second and final term. We thank her for her continued dedication and leadership.

Throughout 2024, the network remained committed to our vision of empowered and prosperous communities deriving their livelihoods from sustainable agroecological practices. The achievements documented in this report are a testament to the hard work of our Secretariat team, Member Organizations, and partners, all of whom championed ecological agriculture, community empowerment, and food systems transformation.

As the Board of Directors, we take seriously our role in safeguarding good governance, strategic oversight, and accountability.

In the spirit of transparency and accountability, this annual report includes a comprehensive financial summary that outlines how resources were mobilized, allocated, and managed throughout the year. Despite a reduction in the annual budget—from Kes 239,677,291 to Kes 199,351,921—we remained efficient and focused, ensuring that every shilling counted toward advancing our shared mission. We thank our development partners for their continued trust and financial support.

The challenges facing small-scale farmers—from climate shocks to market disruptions—require urgent, coordinated, and inclusive responses. Yet within these challenges lie great opportunities for transformation. Agroecology continues to prove itself not only as an environmentally sound solution but also as a social justice movement that centers farmers, restores ecosystems, and fosters local economies.

As a network, we are optimistic about the future. The seeds planted in 2024 will bear fruit in the years to come. Our commitment remains unwavering—to scale impact, to deepen partnerships, and to ensure that agroecology is not just a practice but a way of life that secures dignity, health, and prosperity for generations.

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to:

- The Secretariat team, led by Ms. Rosinah Mbenya, for your unwavering dedication and excellent stewardship.
- Our Member Organizations, for your commitment to networking, innovation, and empowering local communities.
- Our funding partners, for your invaluable support and partnership.
- All stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society, academia, and the private sector, for walking with us.

I now warmly welcome you to read this 2024 Annual Report—a reflection of where we've been, what we've achieved, and where we are headed. May it inspire continued collaboration, innovation, and hope for a greener and more just future.

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 Thurania
Aidlink Executive Director, Girl
Child Network
Member



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



Mr. Joseph Lentunyo
Laikipia Permaculture Centre
(LPC)
Member



Ms Olivia Nyaidho
Programmes Director - Develop-
ment in Gardening (DIG)
Member

Foreword from the Country Coordinator

As the world continues to grapple with complex and interlinked global crises—including climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and environmental pollution—the urgency to shift towards sustainable and regenerative food systems has never been greater. Small-scale farmers, who feed the majority of the world’s population, are among the most vulnerable to these disruptions. Yet, they also hold the key to transforming agriculture into a solution for both people and the planet.



Ms. Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator
PELUM Kenya

In this context, agroecology is emerging not only as a farming approach, but as a resilient, inclusive, and climate-smart alternative to industrial food systems. At PELUM Kenya, we see agroecology as a bridge—linking knowledge, culture, innovation, and policy—with the potential to restore degraded ecosystems, protect food sovereignty, and secure livelihoods.

It is against this backdrop that I am delighted to present to you the 2024 Annual Report of the PELUM Kenya Secretariat. This publication documents our collective efforts, strategic milestones, and inspiring stories of transformation from farmers, communities, and partners across Kenya.

Despite a decline in our annual budget—from Kes 239,677,291 in 2023 to Kes 199,351,921 in 2024, representing a 16.82% decrease—our mission and agenda remained steadfast and relevant. I am deeply grateful to God for a vibrant year marked by both historic achievements and strengthened partnerships, including a growth in our donor base from 15 to 16 funding partners.

The year 2024 was a momentous one. We traversed the country and extended our influence globally, united under one agenda: making agroecology work for small-scale farmers and pastoralist communities to improve and sustain their livelihoods. Working alongside our 63 Member Organizations, we deepened our impact through our core approaches—capacity building, networking, knowledge management, advocacy, and policy influence. Our thematic areas of Sustainable Natural Resources Management, Climate Change Resilience, Agroenterprise and Market Development, and Youth and Women Inclusion continued to guide our actions.

Among our proudest milestones was hosting the first National Agroecology Symposium, a landmark event attended by over 200 stakeholders from across the ag-

riculture ecosystem. The diverse representation—government, academia, farmers, civil society, development partners, private sector, and consumers—demonstrated growing national consensus on the urgent need to scale agroecological practices.

During our CWG Symposium, we took collective action in reforesting the Mau Forest, a key water catchment and symbol of ecological renewal, reflecting our commitment to landscape restoration and climate mitigation.

In policy advocacy, PELUM Kenya played a pivotal role in the development and launch of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (2024–2033). This landmark event was officiated by the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Dr. Andrew Karanja. The strategy aims to sustainably transform Kenya’s food systems to ensure food and nutrition security, climate-resilient livelihoods, and social inclusion. We are particularly proud of our signed MoU with Makueni County, which is now making significant strides toward developing its own county-level agroecology strategy.

On the regional front, in collaboration with the East African Community (EAC), we convened the Regional Stakeholders’ Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities in Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) on 27th–28th February 2024 in Nairobi—a historic event that has since opened doors to stronger collaboration with the EAC.

Another milestone was our Water Governance Forum held on 27th August 2024 in partnership with 3KM Sacco in Kimilili, Bungoma County. The forum brought together 27 key stakeholders including county government departments, the Kenya Forest Service, Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs), and the Water Resources Authority (WRA), which committed to supporting sub-catchment management plan reviews. A key takeaway was the urgent need to increase youth participation in WRUA leadership.

PELUM Kenya actively participated in the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit (7th–9th May 2024), using the platform to advocate for organic agriculture and soil health. Our Member Organizations showcased successful models of soil restoration through agroecological practices.

Youth engagement remained a strong pillar of our work. We proudly joined the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Mombasa (17th–19th September 2024) under the theme “Building Generations for Climate Resilience.” The accompanying Caravan Walk in Kilifi amplified the role of youth in driving climate change action.

The AWOLA (African Women Leaders in Agroecology) Initiative also celebrated remarkable growth. In 2024, we graduated the inaugural AWOLA cohort, launched their inspiring stories of change, and onboarded a second, diverse cohort comprising youth and industry leaders. This expansion included our footprint in Nigeria and Malawi, reflecting the growing impact of the initiative.

We also hosted the National Youth Forum on Agroecology, focusing on *“Accelerating Digital Technology to Promote Meaningful Youth Engagement in Agribusiness, Agroforestry Value Chains, and Agrotourism.”* This event was the centerpiece of our International Youth Day celebrations, aligning with the 2024 global theme *“From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development.”*

Looking forward, we recognize that the road to food system transformation is long - but not impossible. With

every challenge - be it shrinking arable land, climate shocks, or market disruptions - comes an opportunity to build resilience, scale local innovations, and forge stronger alliances across sectors.

We envision a future anchored in ecological integrity, social justice, and community-driven innovation. Agroecology is not just a solution; it is a movement that must be scaled, protected, and integrated into national development.

I would like to sincerely thank our dedicated Secretariat team, our Board of Directors, and all our member organizations for your creativity, commitment and collaboration. To our development partners, thank you for your trust, solidarity, and continued investment in a shared vision. To the farmers and communities, you remain the heart of everything we do.

We invite you to read, reflect, and engage with the stories and results captured in this report. May it inspire action, partnership, and renewed commitment to agroecology.



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

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PELUM Kenya



Geoffrey Kahuho
Senior Programme Office
(Capacity Enhancement
and Networking)



Mary Irungu
Programme Officer
(Advocacy)



Irene Nyaega
Administrative &
HR Officer



Roland Mwalugha
Driver/Mechanic



George Foro
Zonal Coordinator
(Nairobi and Central Zone)



Ngunjiri Kihoro
Zonal Coordinator (Lower
Eastern and Coast Zone)



Sarah Wambui
Programme Officer
(Advocacy)



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

Meet the **PELUM Kenya** Secretariat Team



Beth Omae
Zonal Coordinator
(Rift,-Western Kenya
Zone)



Bathseba Ratemo
Programme Officer
(Knowledge Hub and
Communications)



Monica Nyaga
Programme Officer (Gender,
Youth & Advocacy)



Diana Mwangi
M&E Officer



Michael Muriithi
Security Guard



Joseph Chokera
Security Guard



Susan Kimani
Office Attendant

Staff Who Joined



Evans Akello
Finance Officer



Geoffrey Juma
Programme Assistant
Gender & Youth

Staff Who Left 2024



Edward Muiruri
Programme Officer
(Agro enterprise and
Marketing)



Alice Kariuki
Senior Finance Officer



Matthew Muendo
Programme Officer
(EOA - Regional Coordinator)



Titus Sagala
Country Director
Ripple Effect Kenya

Message from Member Organization

Ripple Effect Kenya is proud and honored to be part of the PELUM Kenya 2024 Annual Report.

Ripple Effect Kenya is an NGO registered with the NGO's Coordination board, our vision is to see a Confident, thriving and Sustainable Rural Kenya. We are on a mission to inspire and equip Kenyan Communities to transform lives and save the environment. We aim to reach and impact 700,000 people by the year 2030.

The NGO being an active member of PELUM Kenya is keen to participate in PELUM's policy initiatives and strategies, we remain committed to deepening partnership with PELUM Kenya and other member organizations. Our goal is to ensure that smallholder farmers are at the center of Kenya's food systems transformation—thriving through sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agricultural practices.

The organization continued its unwavering commitment in 2024 to empower smallholder farming families through agroecological approaches, sustainable livelihoods, and integrated farm systems. Our work across Kenya, particularly in Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Migori, Homabay, West Pokot, Kilifi and Kwale counties, remained rooted in the core principles of ecological land use management and community transformation.

Through partnerships with county governments and grassroots farmer networks, we trained over 5,000 farmers in regenerative agriculture techniques, including composting, intercropping, agroforestry, and soil and water conservation. These practices not only improved productivity but also enhanced resilience to erratic weather patterns and pests.

Ripple Effect Kenya facilitated community-based farmer field days and demonstration plots, where peer learning

and indigenous knowledge played a key role in promoting uptake of agroecological practices. Through PELUM our farmers participated in exchange visits to Lugari, celebrating our seeds and indigenous foods, national world food day in Bukura among other learning events, we also shared success stories and farmer innovations through these farm exchange visits and community radio platforms.

Our farm systems approach integrated kitchen gardening, livestock rearing, and improved household nutrition—particularly for women and children. Women-led groups saw increased decision-making power and economic gains through our proven practical household Transformation methodologies value addition and market linkages in poultry, dairy, and horticulture.

Together, we ripple lasting change from the ground up.

Titus Sagala
Country Director
Ripple Effect Kenya

1. Promoting Ecological Land Use Management (ELUM) for Networking and Livelihood Improvement (PENELI) IV

Development partner: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and Bread for The World (BROT)
Period: 2022-2026.

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.

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 (EOA-I) in Africa

Development partner: Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and Swiss Development Corporation (SDC).
Period: 2022-2026

Goal: Vibrant EOA in Africa for enhanced food security, household incomes and environmental sustainability and Sustainable development in Africa by 2026.

Objectives:

- To establish and strengthen coordinated multi-stakeholder platforms for EOA Institutions at Regional and National levels by 2026.
- To lobby and advocate for mainstreaming of EOA practices into public policies and investment plans.
- To strengthen the Institutional Capacity and Collaboration of the pillar implementing partners at the National level.

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

Development partner: GIZ through Biovision Africa Trust
Period: 2022- 2025

The Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Eastern Africa (KHEA) Project is in its second phase of implementation for the 2nd Phase. 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.
- b. **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.
 - c. **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.
 - d. **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

Development partner: GAW is an annual campaign funded by SSNC to amplify the power of sharing communities to bring about sustainable consumption.

Goal: To promote sharing and exchange of farmer-managed seeds/indigenous seeds and knowledge in PELUM Kenya.

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. Aberdares Watershed Management Project (AWMP)

Development partner: Tudor Trust
Period: 2024-2025

The Aberdares Watershed Management Programme is a two-year initiative implemented by PELUM Kenya in partnership with five of its member organizations (SACDEP-Kenya, ICE, OACK, RODI-Kenya, and COSDEP) across the Aberdares ecosystem, covering Murang'a, Kiambu, Nyeri, and Nyandarua counties. The project aims to enhance the resilience of the watershed through the development and advocacy of five key environmental policy frameworks:

- Wetlands and riparian areas conservation for Muranga and Nyeri Counties,

- Invasive and alien species management (Muranga County),
- Natural resources Management policy (Nyandarua County) and an
- Agroecology policy and bill (focused in Kiambu).

Through stakeholder engagement, technical support, legislative sensitization, and grassroots advocacy, the programme seeks to strengthen county-level environmental governance, promote sustainable natural resource use, and increase community participation in conservation efforts.

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

Development partner: Norwegian Agency for Exchange Corporation(NOREC)
Period: 2023-2025

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Marketing through Youth Involvement (PSAMY) is a 3 year youth exchange project implemented by PELUM Kenya and FACHIG Trust, Zimbabwe.

Objectives:

- To increase youth participation in sustainable agriculture and agricultural market value chains through knowledge and cultural exchanges between Kenyan and Zimbabwe.

Expected Results:

- Participants have strengthened their leadership skills and capacity to disseminate knowledge and skills on Sustainable agriculture in 25 farmer groups.
- Participants have strengthened their leadership skills and capacity to disseminate knowledge and skills on formation of market Association to PELUM Kenya Member Organisation (Mos)
- Small holder farmers in 1 District with Increased knowledge and skills on sustainable agriculture practices.
- Small holder Farmers in PELUM Kenya network Increase their knowledge on value chain based marketing strategies for increased income from agriculture produce in 4 Counties ,Kenya .
- PELUM Kenya Increased institution knowledge on markets association and value chain development.
- FACHIG increases institution knowledge on sustainable agriculture practices and innovations.
- PELUM Kenya and FACHIG increased networking and partner collaboration.

7. Policies for Agroecology in Kenya (PAK)

Development partner: Biovision Foundation
Period: 2022-2024

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.

Expected Results:

- Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) at County and national level established or strengthened.
- Enhanced coordination and information flow across sectors (e.g., agriculture, environment, health, economy) and scales on food system related policy processes.
- Small scale Farmer, women and youth groups are empowered and capacitated on effective engagement in policy processes.
- Enhanced coordination and information flow across sectors (e.g., agriculture, environment, health, economy) and scales on food system related policy processes.
- Small scale Farmer, women and youth groups are empowered and capacitated on effective engagement in policy processes.

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

Development partner: VI Agroforestry
Period: 2023-2025

Goal: To Enhance Governance and Social Accountability for Livelihood Improvement.

Objectives:

- Strengthen communities/citizen engagement in water governance by collaborating with Water Resource User Associations (WRUAs) and core partners in 5 counties by 2025
- Increased implementation of national and county government plans and budgets on sustainable agriculture, climate action, agrobiodiversity, by 2025.
- Enhanced community voices in climate action plans and budgeting.
- Agroforestry, and sustainable agriculture policies are adopted and implemented at local and global levels to enhance attainment of the right to food.

9. Africa Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA) Initiative

Development partner: Tudor Trust, Swiss Development Corporation.
Period: 2022-2024 and 2024-2028.

Africa Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA) 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: Capacitated women assume leadership in positions and contribute to a higher share of women in important sector positions to promote & implement Agroecology.

Expected Results:

- Critical mass of women mentored and coached on agroecology leadership at all levels.
- Women agroecological business initiatives & innovations enhanced /developed.
- Improved capacity for women in AE principles, practice and enterprise development.
- Women actively participating in AE policy influencing.

10. Agroecology Living Landscapes

Development partner: Alliance Bioversity CIAT.
Period: 2022-2024

The “Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land, and Water Systems” Initiative (AE-I) is one of 32 initiatives of the One CGIAR. This project is implemented in 2 Agroecology Living Landscapes (ALLs) of DNRC in Makueni and CSHEP in Kiambu counties.

Goal: 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.

Expected Results:

- Transdisciplinary co-creation of innovations (beyond practices) in Agroecological Living Labs (ALLs).
- Evidence-based assessments to 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.

11. Advancing Agroecology Communications with PELUM Kenya

Development partner: Island Reach.
Period: 2024.

PELUM Kenya & Island Reach partnered to undertake a series of video productions with the goal of advancing PELUM Kenya and their Member Organizations with agroecology messaging to reach various target users such as policy makers, trainers, farming communities etc.

12. Visibilize 4 Climate Action

Development partner: Africa Population Health Research Centre (APHRC).
Period: 2024-2027

Goal: to make visible, through **research, public and policy engagement**, the impacts of climate change on the nutritional status and mental health of vulnerable populations in the East African drylands to catalyze context-specific climate policy and practice change at scale.

Objectives:

- To help communities in drylands in Kenya understand the concepts of climate change and climate impacts, obtain views on various climate practice and policy options, and communicate research evidence through participatory public engagement.
- To promote evidence-informed decision-making regarding climate policy and practice change at scale in Kenya and the Eastern Africa region, through knowledge sharing, advocacy and policy engagement.

Expected Results:

- Improved understanding of the concepts of climate change and its impacts and on factors that contribute to vulnerability to climate change impacts, and empowerment of communities in drylands in Eastern Africa to apply adaptation measures.
- Adoption of context-specific and scalable climate change policies and practices in Eastern Africa's drylands.

13. Strengthening Climate Resilience by Scaling Up Agroecology: Collaborative Research and Advocacy to Advance Food Systems Transformation

Development partner: Agroecology Fund.
Period: 2024-2026.

Is a collaborative initiative led by Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA) Kenya in partnership with PELUM Kenya and Effective IPM Association (EIPMA), Implemented across Kiambu, Murang'a, West Pokot, and Makueni Counties.

Goal: To address the climate and environmental impacts of fossil fuel-based agrochemicals by promoting agroecological alternatives.

Objectives:

- To support the development and implementation of agroecology policy frameworks in West Pokot and Makueni Counties.
- To promote the adoption of agroecological practices among smallholder farmers, with a focus on women and youth.
- To build knowledge and capacity in participatory research methodologies for co-creating agroecological innovations and informing policy.
- To Strengthen partnerships and collaborations at both county and national levels to support agroecology and climate resilience efforts.
- To increase the recognition and integration of agroecology in national and global climate change discussions and policies.

14. Strengthening the Implementation of Kenya's Agroecology Strategy to Accelerate Food Systems Transformation

Development partner: Porticus Foundation.
Period: 2024-2026

The project supports effective implementation of Kenya's National Agroecology Strategy focussing on strengthening institutional and coordination capacity, developing coherent agroecology policy frameworks, and promoting the use of bio-inputs as a critical lever in transitioning away from sole reliance on inorganic fertilizers and enhance the advocacy capacity of civil society, community, and farmer-led organizations.

Goal: To accelerate food systems transformation in Kenya, ultimately contributing to improved food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable economic growth for smallholder farmers.

Expected Results:

- Institutional Strengthening and Coordination.
- Advocacy for the Implementation of the National Agroecology Strategy.
- Result Measurement and Reporting Framework for National Agroecology Strategy Implementation.
- Support for Production and Use of Bio-Inputs.
- County-Level Agroecology Policy Formulation and Implementation Support.

15. Accelerating AE and FRN impacts through scaling deep, scaling out and scaling up

Development partner: Mcknight Foundation.
Period: -

Goal: To implement and evaluate various scaling strategies for accelerating AE's transformative impacts.

Objectives:

- Developing/reviewing/ supporting implementation of AE policies and strategies
- Facilitating meetings, experiential learnings, tracking implementation, communicating, documenting the process and learnings.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy engagement process

16. Youth in Agroecology Learning Track in Africa(YALTA)

Development partner: PELUM Regional Association.
Period: 2024-2028

YALTA is a youth initiative implemented in Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Uganda that aims at mentoring youth in their agribusiness to scale up and effectively participate in policy spaces.

Goal: Tapping and channeling youth potential in Agroecology for strengthening agri-food systems in Africa for resilience, transformation and socio-economic development.

Expected Results:

- Enhanced knowledge, skills and business initiatives for participating youth.
- Enhanced participation of youth in policy spaces.

17. We4R

Development partner: PELUM Regional Association.
Period: 2024-2026.

Project seeks to contribute to women's resilient transformation anchored on the 3 Rs (Rights, Resources, Representation) by ensuring women's economic empowerment through the 3Rs is important for sustainable development. The project is implemented in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi.

Goal: Capacity enhancement for women change agents and selected male allies to stimulate their agency to amplify voices for women's rights, access to resources, and representation in the context of land and rural livelihoods resilience in Africa.

18. Nature-positive Solutions for Shifting Agrifood Systems to More Resilient and Sustainable Pathways

Development partner: International Water Management Institute (IWMI).
Period: 2023-2024.

The project focuses on capacity building, piloting and scaling up of circular bioeconomy models in selected sites in Kenya.

Expected Results:

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

19. Conserving Bio cultural diversity through strengthening community and Ecosystem Resilience

Development partner: Africa Biodiversity Network
Period: 2021-2024

Goal: To contribute to improved life on land through conservation of bio-cultural diversity, restoration of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in Africa.

Objectives:

- Strengthened and diversified community livelihood options based on good bio-cultural diversity and seed governance.
- Community ecological governance system revived, based on time-tested community knowledge and practices.
- A strong proactive youth movement established that celebrates and engages with issues on biocultural diversity across Africa.
- Increased support for community-led advocacy as a prerequisite for building coalitions for policy influence on prioritized issues.

ABN networking and practice of methodologies among communities, partners and allies within the network improved including in Francophone and MENA speaking countries.

Expected Results:

- Seed and biocultural diversity revived at community level
- Partners have increased capacity to support their communities to use their local led solutions on revival and revitalization of traditional institutions on conservation of their biodiversity ecosystem services.
- Partners' capacity built to establish strong, proactive youths' movements that articulate and lobby for conservation of biocultural diversity.
- Partners' and communities' capacity increased to lobby and campaign for policy influence on prioritized issues.

20. Inclusive and Enabling policies for Agroecology

Development partner: Agroecology Fund.
Period: 2022-2024.

The project aims at influencing agroecology policies at the national and county levels.

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

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 governments.
- Increased participation of women and youth in policy spaces.

20. African Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA)

Development partner: Tudor Trust, Both ENDS, SDC
Period: 2022-2028.

Overall Objective

To inspire, mentor, nurture and fast track the leadership development of African women in Agroecology.

AWOLA initiative focuses on enhancing the leadership capabilities of seasoned and emerging women in agroecology for effective decision making and participation in agroecology. Strengthening the role of women leadership in agroecology will bring an impact to the field of agroecology. The initiative will empower the emerging women leaders to enable them to join the seasoned cluster of women.

The initiative will also utilize the seasoned women leaders to empower the emerging women leaders in to excellent leadership. AWOLA will also ensure that emerging women with leadership potential who have not had a chance to be in leadership opportunities are well equipped with skills that place them in better place in terms of becoming future leaders while leadership opportunities emerge.

The end goal is to have more seasoned women leaders in various agroecology institutions in Africa now and in the future. The target women leaders will be from agroecology institutions including CBOs, networks and NGOs. The subject of interest will not be on technical skills on agroecology but on leadership aspects such as negotiation skills, governance etc. for a start, five countries in Africa (Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda) will be targeted.

The project will be scaled up in other Countries after piloting in the three Countries.

Institutional Strengthening, Networking, and Capacity Development

PELUM Kenya is a vibrant, member-driven network comprising 63 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.

Organized a 3-day capacity building workshop 17th to 19th July 2024, MOs staff on carbon markets and trade. The participants acquired knowledge on carbon markets processes. The training was necessary for the members

to understand the carbon market space to be well knowledgeable on the subject and credible opportunities available for exploitation.

PELUM Kenya 2024 AGM



53 Member delegates participated in the AGM held at Vick Mark Hotel in Nakuru. The Members deliberated on several issues, key among them Chairman's report, Activities implemented and Financial Report. 3 members applicants were vetted and joined the network Koppert Ltd; Indigenous Women and Girls Initiative (IWMI); and TAI CBO bringing the total PELUM Kenya membership to 63





2024 Networking Symposium, Nakuru, 19th June, 2024

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with Slow Food Kenya held the networking symposium on 19th June 2024. This was done through showcasing innovative agroecological practices, knowledge sharing, and exchange, highlighting cultural heritage. The exhibitions also underscored the intangible cultural heritage of food, including cultural practices, skills, languages, and beliefs related to agroecology, community engagement and conservation. The event was held at Maasai market, Nakuru and was graced by Nakuru City Manager. 33 MOs participated in the exhibition competition and awards were

provided for position 1, 2 and 3 as follows: Position 1: Slow Food Kenya; Position 2: Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Programme (CREPP); and Position 3: Grow Bio Intensive Center Kenya (GBIACK).



Tree planting by PELUM Kenya Members at Marishoni Molo during the Members symposium held on 19th June 2024 in Nakuru

G-BIACK presents an online webinar

Soil is AWOMB

Presented By
MASTER GARDENER:
Sam Nderitu

SOIL THE MOTHER OF ALL

•LIVE @ GBIACK

SAVE THE DATE

DATE 2024 TIME 00:00:00

Visit Our Website gblack.netlify.app Call Us For More Info **0720323134**

Logos for various partners including giz, FSDM, and SYMBIO.

Supported GBIACK to organize a virtual webinar on “Soil is AWOMB”

Supported GBIACK to organize a webinar on “Soil is a Womb” on 29th February 2024. Over 50 Multipliers/participants joined virtually. It is worth noting that out of the 201 registered on KOBO, 55.7% were Multipliers which translates to 112

Left: Poster for online webinar on “Soil is AWOMB” Right: Screenshot of GBIACK Facebook data of the webinar

Supported MTs in the Virtual Webinars (courtesy of IFOAM & BVAT)



AGROECOLOGY WEEK OF WEBINARS

11th, 12th, 13th & 15th March 2024
10 AM - 12 PM EAT (daily)
@PELUM KENYA

11th March 2024 - Regenerating soils for future generations - Ferdinand Wafula

12th March 2024 - Kitchen Garden Magics by Esther Kiruthi

13th March 2024 - IPM, a workable system for pest problems by Dr. Nehemiah Mihindo

15th March 2024 - Essentials of PGS Development and Organic Market Opportunities - Samuel Ndungu and Sylvia Kuria

Moderators
Grace Misol, Ratemo Moraa

Logos of partner organizations: IFOAM, BVAT, KHEA, PELUM KENYA, GYMABIO, and others.



The Agroecology week of webinars was organized by PELUM Kenya and facilitated/moderated by the Kenya Master Trainers. The brief report will touch on the communications aspect in terms of registration of participants/multipliers, zoom participation, livestream participation and links. The webinar series attendance was 125 participants on zoom with +668 views on social media

Top: Theory session by Multipliers from CSHEP in Ndeiya. Bottom: Practical session on compost making in Wundanyi, Taita Taveta Counties.

Organized for six (6) Farmer level trainings in five (5) counties

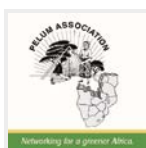
PELUM Kenya has trained 221 farmers for February 2024 (147 female and 74 males) representing 67% women. Twelve (12) multipliers have been engaged for the training (7 males and 5 females) in Nyeri, Ndeiya, Nakuru, Machakos and Taita Counties. During training, farmers with toddlers are allowed to attend and even bring a caretaker if need be. The sessions are interactive from theory to practical with the lessons being in the local dialect for ease of understanding by the farmers



Top: Group work session for farmers on Farm planning in Taita Taveta. Bottom: Farmers planting trees during the farmer-level training in Nakuru

The community tree nursery at Effective IPM Association (EIPMA) has been used by Multipliers to purchase tree seedlings for farmer-level trainings. An instance is during the KCOA Farmer level trainings that happened from 5th to 9th February 2024, farmers from Sylvia's Basket were practically trained by the multipliers on how to grow trees. 34 farmers were each given two (2) trees (Grafted Avocado Hass and Gravellia) to also plant at home. Avocado will provide them fruits for nourishment while Gravellia will help feed the livestock (Cows, Goats, Rabbits etc.)

the KCOA farmer-level training on Agroforestry by Multipliers from Sylvia's Basket.



PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LAND USE
MANAGEMENT (PELUM) KENYA

SOIL HEALTH

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network that currently comprises 61 Member Organizations (M.O.s) to promote agroecological principles and management practices for improved livelihoods among small-scale farmers and pastoralists in Kenya.

PELUM Kenya through the auspice of the Knowledge Hub for Organic Agriculture in Eastern Africa (KCOA-KHEA Project) has been funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with the support of GIZ to implement the project "Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security". The objective of the project is to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists through agroecology for improved food security and livelihoods.

How to improve soil health

1. Composting

Did you know?

Composting aims at managing organic matter in form of plant remains and animal wastes by recycling them into useful products as humus for soil fertility enhancement. Different composting methods are used in different areas depending on predominant organic materials. Pastoralists have more animal manures allowing the manure to decompose will provide the much needed organic fraction to enhance soil fertility.

- Carbon (Browns): Mature materials or leaves, dried leaves, Straws/grass, Mature stalks, saw dust, peanut shells etc
- Nitrogen (Greens): Immature materials or Green plants – kitchen scraps, coffee grounds and filter, fresh garden trimmings, manure from herbivores (poultry, goat, cattle etc.)
- Water (moisture & Oxygen)

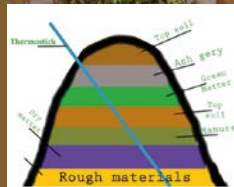


Figure showing compost heap illustration. Image is Courtesy of the training manual - Agroecological organic agriculture by Trees for Cities and COSDEP

Note: In the compost, avoid Meat, bones, dairy products, fats, oils, Pet feces (dog, cat, other carnivores) etc.

Did you know?

The compost with a balance of materials will take 4-6 months to be mature. Application is two handful of compost per plant hole

2. Liquid Manure

Liquid manure is also known as liquid organic fertilizer or liquid compost. The main ingredient is livestock waste and provides essential nutrients to plants while improving soil structure and microbial activity.



Ingredients

- Drum/bucket
- Cow dung or manure from goats/sheep/poultry
- Sack
- Water
- Stick
- Rope

Procedure and Application

1. Pour water into a drum/bucket
2. Add cow dung/manure to the sack and tie the top of the sack tightly
3. Tie it to the stick and submerge to the drum/bucket
4. Leave it for 21 days before it is ready for use
5. Apply cupful around the stem of every plant/vegetable

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) - Kenya Country Secretariat
KU Boma Estate, House No. 114, Along Kenyatta Rd, off Thika Superhighway
P.O. Box 6123-01000, Thika, Kenya
Office Tel: +254 709 746 939
Website: www.pelumkenya.net
Email: info@pelumkenya.net

Facebook icon, YouTube icon, @PELUM Kenya



Implemented by:



In cooperation with:



The brochure on Soil Health produced through the GIZ-funded project (Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security Project) was utilized by the Multipliers from Wundanyi to train farmers which means that the KP is important during farmer level trainings.



A stakeholders' meeting held in Olkalou, Nyandarua County, to collect inputs on the draft Natural Resource Management (NRM) Policy and the Wetland and Riparian Areas Bill.

Policy Skills Training

To strengthen institutional capacity and support policy processes, AWMP Project facilitated a one-day "Policy Skills Training." The training targeted staff from five project AWMP partners (RODI K, COSDEP, ICE, SACDEP and OACK) involved in policy engagement, particularly within the framework of conservation policy development in the Aberdares region. The session addressed legal frameworks, policy formulation, regulations, and the complete enactment cycle. This training responded to a felt need among member organizations for tools and knowledge to effectively navigate and influence county-level policy development. It also strengthened the collective voice of PELUM Kenya in ongoing advocacy efforts.

Through the PENELI IV Programme, Mukuyu Farmers Group in Githunguri, Kiambu was supported to establish a comprehensive demonstration site. With technical backstopping from COSDEP Kenya, the farm has become a center of learning and innovation, showcasing practices aimed at improving soil health, conserving water, and promoting value addition. Features of the demo farm included a 4x8 meter water pan, solar drier, 528-egg capacity incubator, and a multipurpose grinding and oil extraction machine.

Through regular field days, the group has continued to host peer-to-peer learning sessions and engaged the public in discussions about sustainable farming.



A water pan established for Mukuyu Farmers Group in Githunguri under the PENELI IV project.

Physical Monitoring and Evaluation for KCOA farmers trained in 2023 in Matungulu from 24th to 26th January 2024

PELUM Kenya conducted physical monitoring visits for KCOA-KHEA trained farmers associated with two (2) groups that work with GBIACK, in Matungulu, Machakos County from 24th to 26th January 2024. This was to assess uptake, adoption of knowledge and skills and document success stories. 39 farmers were asked to note down techniques and approaches they had adopted in their agricultural activities from the knowledge they acquired during the KCOA-KHEA training done in 2023 by GBIACK multipliers. Out of the 39 farmers present (14M; 25F, 8 being youth), 36 of them (92%) noted different techniques that they had adopted and continued to use in their farms.

Some of the practices listed as adopted by most of them include composting, small livestock keeping, crops management, seeds multiplication, saving and storage, pests control, intercropping, agroforestry. During the field visits to 8 of the farmers, different practices observed were: composting, pests' control (apichi), soil & land preparation (double digging, raised beds, zai pits, mulching), intercropping, crops diversification, animals' integration in farming, agroforestry, soil and water conservation, herbs and spices availability, among others.

The farmers have specialized in different agricultural value chains and are realizing positive results from adopting the knowledge acquired. They were able to clearly explain/demonstrate the procedures, reasons and benefits of some of the practices observed.

soil health and fertility, crops quality, maturity and yields, reduced infestation by pests and diseases, all-seasons farming, increased yields, harvests and sale of surplus.

Adoption of the knowledge from the training coupled with the rainy season experienced towards the end of 2023, there is plenty of diverse food in the farms (nearing maturity) and homes (harvested). The farmers' households are food secure and are earning income from sale of different farm products. The farmers have also been sharing the knowledge and techniques of EOA to peers, and villagers. This has led to other farmers also transitioning to ecological organic agriculture in their farms.



From
Farmer Level
Trainings

“Soil Testing saved my farm” by Thomas



Thomas is a member of Kanini Kaseo self-help group. Together with the group members, he participated in the 5-days training in 2023 where he learnt the importance of soil testing and how to improve soil fertility and was convinced that he could rehabilitate land that was not productive and had no crop cover for over ten years. Thomas collected samples of soils from the piece of land soon after the training and after testing, he learnt that the soil was lacking organic matter, the reason for having no crop cover. He embarked on improving the organic matter in the land by applying compost manure to improve soil fertility and he witnessed gradual growth of crop cover. He has witnessed gradual change and currently, that part of his land has strong and healthy maize stalks that are almost mature (as seen in the picture). For the first time in more than ten years, Thomas will get a harvest from that portion of the land.

“Organic food improved my health”, Josephat

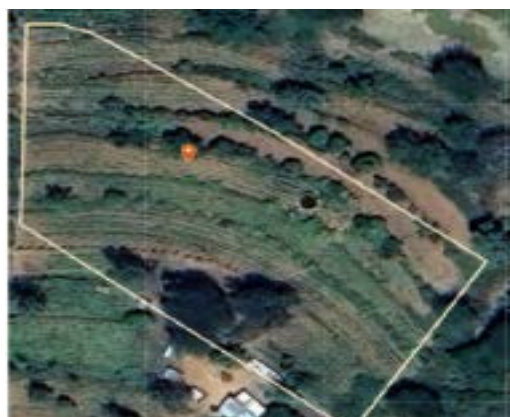
Josephat, a member of Mwanga self-help group was previously using chemical fertilizers and pesticides in farming, through the support from GBIACK multipliers and utilization of the knowledge he learnt during the training he participated in 2023, he gradually converted to organic farming. He no longer uses any chemical fertilizer or pesticides on his farm and has fully adopted biopesticides and organic manure that are working well in combating any pests and disease menace to the crops. KCOA multipliers from GBIACK visits the farmer frequently for one-on-one practical trainings and follow-up. During the visit, Josephat mentioned that he had noted that the instances of falling ill every now and then for him and his household had reduced significantly, deducing that consumption of organically grown food have had a contribution as he grows his own food and is keen in what the household consumes.

Screenshot of the size of land for some of the KCOA farmers visited during the monitoring visits

Grace Mutava -
Working area is 0.489
ha which is equivalent
to 1.2083453 acres.



Patrick and Mary
- Working area
is 0.515ha which
is equivalent to
1.2725927 acres.



Mutisya Musau - Working area is 0.251 ha which is equivalent to 0.62023451 acres.



Josphat Munyoki - Working area is 0.555 ha which is equivalent to 1.3714349 acres.

Empowering Multipliers to Tell Their Stories: KCOA Knowledge Platform Training at GBIACK

On 25th November 2024, PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with GBIACK, organized a dynamic training workshop aimed at equipping 34 multipliers and communications officers from PELUM Kenya, AWOLA, and the broader Multipliers Network with practical skills in knowledge collection, blog writing, and digital engagement. The training brought together 14 women and 20 men; all committed to advancing agroecology through storytelling and knowledge sharing.

The main objective was to build a strong team of Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) capable of supporting fellow multipliers and farmers to effectively use the KCOA Digital Knowledge Platform. Participants learned how to write compelling stories from the field, upload knowledge products, and interact with other users on the platform. This initiative marks a critical step toward increasing visibility of grassroots agroecological efforts, strengthening digital

participation, and creating a vibrant online community of practice where farmer experiences, innovations, and success stories are captured and shared widely.



Training Workshop on Knowledge Products Collection, Blog Stories writing and using the KCOA Digital Knowledge Platform at GBIACK



Developed KCOA Platform Flier and Poster to assist in Registration

Developed and Disseminated 500 fliers on the KCOA Platform to farmers and Multipliers. From this, we realized an increase in registration of users to the KCOA Digital Platform. Also printed 400 fliers on Agroecology Inputs in Kenya and principles of Agroecology

collective voice of PELUM Kenya in ongoing advocacy efforts.

Through the PENELI IV Programme, Mukuyu Farmers Group in Githunguri, Kiambu was supported to establish a comprehensive demonstration site. With technical backstopping from COSDEP Kenya, the farm has become a center of learning and innovation, showcasing practices aimed at improving soil health, conserving water, and promoting value addition. Features of the demo farm included a 4x8 meter water pan, solar drier, 528-egg capacity incubator, and a multipurpose grinding and oil extraction machine.

Through regular field days, the group has continued to host peer-to-peer learning sessions and engaged the public in discussions about sustainable farming.

Enhancing Adoption of Organic and Agroecological Farming Practices in Africa Through KCOA Digital Knowledge Platform



kcoa-africa.org

The Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology (KCOA) is a country-led partnership working to scale organic and agroecological farming in Africa through five regional Knowledge Hubs. Active in 18 countries and supported by over 30 civil society organizations, KCOA offers a Digital Knowledge Platform for sharing insights and connecting practitioners across the continent.

The Multiplier Network, is an online public forum aimed to serve as a resource for extension agents, trainers, policymakers, and researchers to share information with farmers and pastoralists, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange to advance sustainable agriculture.

STEPS TO REGISTER/USE THE KCOA PLATFORM

Step 1: Click on the domain kcoa-africa.org

Step 2: Click on "Create Account"

Step 3: Fill in the details in the "Register"

Step 4: Confirmation email will be shared to your email for you to verify your account

Step 5: Log in to kcoa-africa.org and put your username and password to start using the platform

Step 6: Once logged in, you will be able to access events, blogs and KCOA Knowledge Database

Tip 1: To add an event or blog, alternatively click on KCOA Database

Tip 2: To view more options, click on the three lines at the top left corner. This will prompt the options for your selection. The Knowledge products are in the "KCOA Knowledge Database"

Tip 3: To view the blogs, click on "all posts"

To contribute to the Digital Knowledge Platform, one is allowed to share Knowledge Products on Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in various formats e.g. videos, brochures, papers, brochures, flyers etc. The Knowledge product(s) will be verified/validated before it can be made available to the users. In addition, one can share blog stories and access to the platform.

For inquiries: email to events@pelumkenya.net or info@pelumkenya.net | Call +254 707 766228

To strengthen institutional capacity and support policy processes, AWMP Project facilitated a one-day "Policy Skills Training." The training targeted staff from five project AWMP partners (RODI K, COSDEP, ICE, SACDEP and OACK) involved in policy engagement, particularly within the framework of conservation policy development in the Aberdares region. The session addressed legal frameworks, policy formulation, regulations, and the complete enactment cycle. This training responded to a felt need among member organizations for tools and knowledge to effectively navigate and influence county-level policy development. It also strengthened the



A stakeholders' meeting held in Olkalou, Nyandarua County, to collect inputs on the draft Natural Resource Management (NRM) Policy and the Wetland and Riparian Areas Bill.



A water pan established for Mukuyu Farmers Group in Githinguri under the PENELI IV project.

Organic Agriculture / Agro-ecology Digital Resources

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), together with Biovision Africa Trust and PELUM Kenya Association organized for a workshop on “Digital Training Materials for Organic Agriculture in Kenya” at Grow Biointensive Agriculture Center of Kenya,

The participants were Multipliers and TOTs from Member Organizations. The learnings were:

- Get an overview of high-quality, trustworthy online training and information materials on Organic Agriculture
- Learnt how to integrate digital tools into farmer trainings effectively
- Got a chance to shape/give feedback on organic-africa.net for improved access to and use of digital training manuals



Workshop on “Digital Training Materials for Organic Agriculture in Kenya” at Grow Biointensive Agriculture Center of Kenya

Resources Available

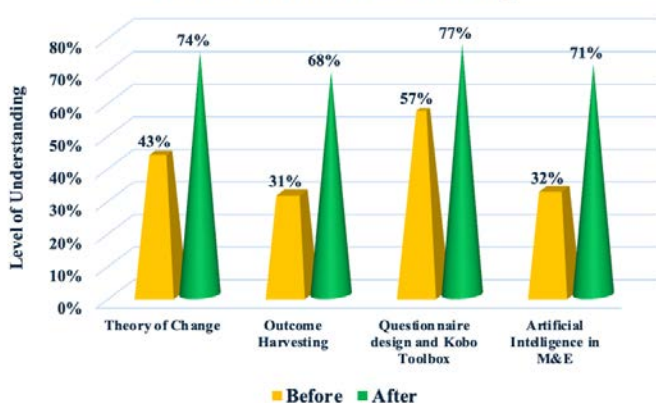
1. **Organic agriculture in Africa** www.organic-africa.net
2. **Plant, Human, Environmental & Animal Health** www.infonet-biovision.org
3. **Statistical data about organic worldwide** www.organic-world.net
4. **Smallholder farming worldwide** www.fao.org/family-farming/resources
5. **Videos on organic agriculture worldwide** www.accessagriculture.org
6. **Crop, Pasture and Livestock selector** www.selector.kalro.org
7. **Map with organic products and producers in Kenya** www.koan.co.ke/products-and-producers
8. **SMS-based training materials (Kenya) SMS poultry, goats or vegetables to 40799**
9. **Database for non-chemical control of pests and diseases in the tropics** <http://www.oisat.org/>
10. **Budgeting for farmers** <https://budgetmkononi.com/>
11. **FAO e-Learning Academy** <https://elearning.fao.org/>
12. **Organic SOKO** <https://organicsoko.com/>
13. **AI-based chatbot on agriculture** www.help.gooey.ai/farmerchat

MERL Training for the network's M&E focal persons

A training for PELUM Kenya network members was held from 29th to 31st May 2024 based on the training need assessment conducted by staff from the PELUM Kenya network. Key actions developed by the members were.

- PELUM Kenya Network Working group with leadership & M&E thematic areas focal persons
 - Cascade the training to staff back in the organizations.
 - Jointly participate in refresher webinars to share knowledge; proposed topics (ToC, GIS, Outcome Harvesting, AI in M&E, Emerging trends in M&E, etc)
3. To identify areas for support (through specific action plans) and drawing assistance by the technical partner as desired and can be offered to boost and improve advocacy for the core partners.

Level of Understanding in different Concepts Before and After The Workshop



The outputs of the assessment were as follows

1. Advocacy capacity assessment technical report
2. General and partner-specific recommendations
3. General and partner-specific action / capacity building plan.

The assessment's findings provided valuable insights into the core partners strengths and weaknesses, to enable the partners develop targeted capacity-building interventions and training contents to strengthen their ability to effectively engage in advocacy and policy work at both the national and county levels.

End of PAK Project stakeholders' reflection workshop

Advocacy Capacity Assessment for GSAILI Project Core Partners

PELUM Kenya, a technical partner for VI Agroforestry's ASILI-B programme undertook an advocacy capacity assessment aimed at looking at the advocacy, communications and policy work capacities of ASILI-B core partners in Kenya through its Governance and Social Accountability for Improved Livelihoods (G-SAILI) Project. The main goal of the assessment was to identify critical elements for effective policy and advocacy work as well as identifying their areas that need strengthening or further development to be effective policy changes impactors. The assessment aimed at:

1. Identifying core partners advocacy capacities, strengths and gaps based on 14 different advocacy domains/sub-sections
2. To come up with recommendations cutting across all partners as well as partner-specific that can be

On 6th and 7th August 2024, PELUM Kenya in collaboration with Biovision Foundation held a reflection workshop for the project at Sportsview Hotel, Nairobi, with the aim of engaging different stakeholders as well as key actors involved in both county and national policy processes. The workshop participants included representatives from ISFAA, Busia, Vihiga and Laikipia MSPs, Biovision foundation, and PELUM Kenya.

Key Takeaways from the workshop

- Key learnings and key achievements realized in the different MSPs and across the project shared, acknowledged and proposals offered to ensure continuity of the positive results achieved by the project.
- Identification and highlighting successful strategies and approaches that can be utilized in policy processes at both national and county levels to facilitate smooth policy processes; promote equal representation and inclusion of different stakeholders; foster coordination and enhance information flow across sectors and scales.

Successful approaches and strategies in policy processes identified

- Identification and involvement of stakeholders, key actors and champions in the policy processes
- Capacity building initiatives for key actors
- Anchoring agroecology in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs)
- Utilization of the MSPs approach
- Operational coordination structures such as TWGs.

Recommendations for similar/future initiatives to steer policy processes at national and county level

- Enhanced resource mobilization
- Continuous capacity building on agroecology
- Enhanced reporting structures by MSPs to the county governments
- Strengthening CSOs coordination from county levels to sub-counties and wards levels
- Operational Multi-Stakeholder Forums (MSFs)
- Comprehensive stakeholder mapping and analysis
- MSP action plans and commitment to follow up on the planned activities to ensure continuity of the policy processes at both national and county levels.

PSAMY Project Programmes and Finance M&E visits in Kenya Zimbabwe

These were undertaken in September (Zimbabwe) and November (Kenya) to assess the farmer groups progress and results achieved after implementing the project.

The achieved outputs of the visits were as follows:

- Review and meeting in Zimbabwe with PELUM Kenya staff, FACHIG staff and PSAMY participants
- Review and feedback meetings in Kenya with PELUM Kenya staff, host MOs staff/participants supervisors and PSAMY participants
- Assessment of the progress of the implemented activities against the planned activities (topics, and sessions covered to date)
- Results achieved during and after implementation of the project
- Assessment of adoption of the skills/knowledge acquired during training
- Discussions on the experiences, gaps/challenges and recommendations
- Deliberations on the participants welfare and priority/focus areas
- M&E field visits to sampled farmer groups in Manhenga and Muchapondwa wards in Zimbabwe; and 5 different locations in Kenya
- 2025 planning and budgeting with FACHIG trust

Achievements/Results of the exchange project

- Great uptake of skills and knowledge uptake on different sustainable agricultural practices, agricultural marketing and value chains amongst the trained farmers, leading to enhanced knowledge and skills on

the project's key thematic/focus areas

- Good adoption of some of the practices disseminated by the PSAMY participants on sustainable agriculture, agricultural marketing and value chains
- Enhanced capacity of PSAMY participants in the project's focus areas as well as other professional areas
- Increased networking and collaborations between PELUM Kenya and the host organizations, participants and the smallholder farmers, among the smallholder farmers in their groups, host organizations and the participants, host organizations and the smallholder farmers, participants and PELUM Kenya, among the participants as well as between PELUM Kenya and FACHIG. This translated to smooth transition and settling of the participants, smooth implementation of the planned activities, effective planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (PMERL) processes, and enhanced partners relations
- Enhanced environmental conservation practices among the smallholder farmers through uptake of knowledge and skills, and adoption of environmentally friendly practices, thus enhancing sustainability of the natural resources
- Enhanced skills and knowledge by the participants in utilization of technology and culturally acceptable approaches in community work through the training done by PELUM Kenya and FACHIG trust to participants on climate finance, AI, GALS among others.
- Uptake and utilization of new approaches/strategies that are good in enhancing skills/knowledge uptake and adoption of practices through the trainings and exposure of the hosting MOs, PELUM Kenya, FACHIG trust, participants and the smallholder farmers to new approaches in project implementation/management, sustainable agriculture, agricultural marketing, and value chains, as well as in approaches within and beyond the scope of the PSAMY project
- Enhanced capacity of the participants to be flexible, versatile, innovative and open minded in adjusting and aligning to different cultures, settings, environments, regulations etc, which is key in their professional development
- There was evidence of the host MOs, participants, smallholder farmers and other people expressing strong interest in continuity of the project, prolonging the exchange period beyond one year, being project participants in the future cohorts, and requesting for extension for the participants to continue capacity building them
- The participants and the smallholder farmers established new and useful networks and social ties with other communities/countries which will continue to be useful beyond the project period.

EOA Initiative CLOs and PIPs review and reflection workshop

The workshop was held on 10th and 11th October 2024 at Hotel Tobriana, Nairobi with participants from Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda and Kenya CLOs and PIPs. Key actions agreed upon:

- Resource mobilization for continuity of the initiative and upscaling the realized achievements/results
- Enhanced documentation and proper packaging of EOA work
- Engagement on other platforms including frequent meetings with the government, learning and research institutions
- Enhanced communication and publicity.

EOA-Initiative Midterm Evaluation in Kenya and Ethiopia

Achievements Summary

- 477% Increase in acreage of land dedicated to EOA (0.43 vs 2.48 acres)
- 40% increase in the # of climate adaptation mechanisms practices (5 vs 7): soil fertility management, water harvesting/conservation, IPM, seeds biodiversity, crops diversification, animal integration, maintenance of local genetic diversity, etc.
- 20% increase in the # of farmers utilizing FLIPS including grafting, pruning, transplanting, referring to the quarterly newsletters
- Increased quantity and diversification of organic products in the market, promoted by different outlets
- PIPs active in undertaking research activities in different areas
- Enhanced capacity of PIPs in spearheading the EOA agenda.

Best Practices Summary

- Engagement of new farmers through the existing IPM group model farmers as resource persons facilitating transfer of knowledge
- Technology utilization in implementation such as vermicomposting to promote soil fertility requiring less time, human & financial resources
- Promoting agroforestry in areas prone to adverse climatic conditions (extreme drought/hilly terrains)
- VSLAs approach facilitating access to capital/interest friendly loans for initiating ventures
- Wide range of training beyond farming practices (business skills, etc) supporting farmers to navigate the different OA value chains

Some of the Lessons Learnt

- Grassroots advocacy is crucial in reducing market competition & advertising limitations
- Collaborations and partnerships are important in achieving objectives

- Strong M&E practice is key in capturing unintended results, enriching the learning experience and enhancing adaptive management in refining strategies and integrating learnings into ongoing/future initiatives

AWMP Partners annual review and reflection workshop

Held on 28th November 2024 at Sagana Gateaway resort with 5 AWMP partners to reflect on the experiences in the policy processes at the counties, and strategies that enhanced policy with the different counties.

Strategies identified by partners that facilitated / advancing the policy processes

- The presence of allies and champions in the counties who understood the importance of the initiative and were committed to help pushing the policy agenda forward and ensured the initiative stayed on track
- Prior interactions during agroecology policy and act development provided a strong foundation for the current policy processes. The prior discussions created a shared understanding of the objectives and challenges, making it easier to align the new policies with existing frameworks.
- Building on existing relations with existing stakeholders strengthened the impact as the pre-established trust helped to streamline collaborations and ensured smoother implementation process
- Involving stakeholders in the entire policy process was essential for creating a sense of ownership and ensuring that their perspectives were considered. The inclusiveness also allowed for higher degree of buy-in, increasing the likelihood of successful policy adoption
- Flexibility and compromising on somethings/areas with duty bearers to accommodate the duty bearers' priorities as finding the middle ground ensure the policy process remained viable and acceptable to all parties involved
- Smooth transition and handover of the draft work from the previous partners who were leading the processes which ensured continuity in the policy development, seamless integration of the work and avoid potential disruptions and delays
- Committed CECMs who had goodwill, and their active engagement in technical drafting of the policies played a key role in driving the policies forward with technical expertise and government support
- Joint development of the workplan and transparency in sharing budget with partners fostered trust and alignment, ensuring that everyone involved was on the same page with clear roles and expectations
- Clear and effective communication among all stakeholders including clear/specific roles and responsibilities was crucial to the success of the policy development, and helped streamline the process and avoided confusion or duplication of efforts
- Access to information from prior engagements and

drafts allowed for an informed approach to policy development. This helped to avoid redundancy, provide insights on previous experiences and enabled smoother decision making.

- Alignment of the partners workplans with county governments' schedules which ensured that the policy processes were in sync with other government priorities. This synchronization was vital for maintaining momentum and ensuring timely completion.

Unintended Results of the AWMP policy processes

- Capacity building of project partners particularly in the areas of policy advocacy and development, enhancing their ability to engage in future initiatives.
- Collaborations and formal agreements paving way for collaborative efforts in different areas
- Increased focus on select value chains particularly banana and poultry value chains in Kiambu County
- Collaboration with Flocca committees (Kiambu County) focused on wetlands and riparian conservation, furthering the county's commitment to environmental sustainability

PENELI IV Success Stories Documentatio

Success stories

- Agro Processing & Value addition: expanded markets, increased income and resilience.
- Water harvesting & conservation: boosting food security in dry areas; transforming drought-prone areas into productive farms.
- Transitions to organic farming: higher yields, reduced costs, healthier food, and being community role models.
- Adoption of different AE practices: increased harvests and nutrition security (e.g., composting, diversified livestock such as chicken & pigs) crops diversification, Zai pits, drought-tolerant crops).
- Agroforestry; degraded sites rehabilitation: enhanced environmental conservation, improved access to water, all year-round farming, and NRM.

Best Practices

- Training and capacity building works in disseminating knowledge to innovate and adapt to new challenges, best practices and empowering communities
- Value addition and market linkages in reducing post-harvest loss, improving income and economic resilience
- Community-led initiatives/collaborations to exchange knowledge, share resources, offer mutual support, build trust and improve sustainability of farming practices
- Women empowerment/and women groups taking lead in pushing the agroecology agenda and taking up leadership roles.

Lessons Learnt

- Community led initiatives enhances ownership, ensures great participation and build long lasting networks of support
- Knowledge & experiences sharing drives innovation and enhances ability to withstand and overcome challenges
- Gender integration in development is vital for success & sustainability of agroecological initiatives
- Policy advocacy localization is crucial in addressing the specific community needs and ensuring policy changes are implemented effectively
- Climate resilience is most achieved through combination of different AE practices as a holistic approach.

2024 Staff Review, Planning and Reflection/Team Building

In December 2024, PELUM Kenya organized its review, planning, and reflection from 16th to 20th December 2024 at North Coast Beach Hotel, Mombasa County. The review meeting was vital to ensuring that setbacks and lessons learned from PELUM Kenya projects and programmes were considered during the planning for 2025. Team building aimed at increasing trust, improving communication, increasing collaboration, and increasing or maintaining motivation in the work environment. The staff engaged in different activities to improve morale and leadership skills, enhance creative thinking, identify the team's strengths and weaknesses, and enhance the ability to solve problems. The five PSAMY Participants who were in Zimbabwe for 1 year also joined the staff in the review, planning, reflection and team building.

Key highlights of the retreat

- Staff sharing and reflections of the annual achievements
- Staff end of year meeting.
- Yearly reflection by PSAMY Cohort II Participants who were in Zimbabwe in 2024.
- Wellness talks by Equity Afia on self-care and wellbeing
- Farewell for the PSAMY participants and exiting PELUM Kenya staff/interns.

Policy Influence and Advocacy On Agroecological Practices

Existing agricultural and environmental policies largely favor 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.



- PELUM Kenya and Makueni County government sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support formulation of the Agroecology policy

Organic Agriculture (EOA)

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with EAC organized the Regional Stakeholders' Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities in EOA on 27th - 28th February 2024 at Sportsview Hotel, Nairobi.

The event was graced by Dr. Janet Edeme from the Africa Union Commission (AUC) three (3) delegates from the East Africa Community (EAC) Secretariat, delegations from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC Congo and South Sudan, representatives of East and South Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF), Africa Organic Agriculture Network (AFRoNET), CIFOR ICRAF, Porticus Foundation and Biovision Africa Trust (BvAT)



■ Left: Group photo of the delegates in the East African Community Regional Stakeholders' Workshop on Challenges and Opportunities in Ecological Organic Agriculture Right: The representatives of each EAC Country signing the report of the event to ratify the deliberations and agreements made

From the workshop, the stakeholders made the following recommendations:

1. EAC Partner states are urged to support EOA implementation through various sustainable initiatives in addressing food and nutrition insecurity, climate change, soil health and poverty reduction in the EAC.
2. EAC Partner states are encouraged to leverage regional, continental and global trade frameworks and initiatives to expand market access for organic products.
3. EAC Secretariat and Partner States to mobilize resources to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into Regional and National Agriculture Investment Plans (RAIP/NAIPs).
4. EAC Secretariat to facilitate through Sectoral on Agriculture and Food Security endorsement of the EOA Initiative regional governance and coordination structures.
5. EAC Secretariat to establish through Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security a regional platform to promote EOA implementation in the region.
6. EAC Partner states are encouraged to promote and utilize the East African Organic Product Standard (EAS 456:2007) and Kilimo Hai Trademark in strengthening intra-regional trade in organic products.
7. Encourage Partner States to identify and promote innovative and cost-effective certification and accreditation schemes.
8. EAC Secretariat to mobilize resources and harmonize certification schemes for organic products in the region.
9. EAC Secretariat and Partner States to designate Regional Centre (s) of Excellence in Organic Agriculture to support research and development of innovations in organic agriculture.
10. EAC Partner States are encouraged to institutionalize data collection, storage, documentation and dissemination on production, consumption and trade in organic agriculture products; and
11. EAC Secretariat to mobilize resources for the development and implementation of EOA regional policies and legal frameworks targeting EOA requisite inputs and infrastructure.

1st National Agroecology Symposium



The **1st National Agroecology Symposium** was held on **6th -7th November, 2024** at **Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Nairobi**. PELUM Kenya and like-minded partners organized the inaugural National Agroecology Symposium under the theme *"Sustainable Futures: Advancing Agroecology for Climate Resilience and Food Sovereignty."* The symposium aimed to foster dialogue on transitioning Kenya's food systems toward sustainability. Over 200 participants, including representatives from government, academia, civil society organizations, farmers, researchers, private sector players, development partners, and consumers, attended the event. Following discussions, presentations, and recommendations, the symposium underscored agroecology's transformative potential for Kenya's food systems, calling for concrete actions to drive this shift.

The symposium focused on the following themes:

- Policy and Governance.
- Agroecological in practices for climate resilience.
- Finance and Markets for Agroecology Transition.
- Scientific evidence of agroecology.
- Women and youth in agroecology.

The symposium was concluded with issuing a call to action to stakeholders.

PELUM Kenya
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management

1st National Agroecology Symposium

6th and 7th November 2024

Kenya School of Monetary Studies
Mashare North Road, Off Thika Super Highway (exit 6)

Theme: Sustainable Future: Advancing Agroecology for Food Sovereignty and Climate Resilience

REGISTER NOW
nationalagroecologysymposium.pelumkenya.net

Symposium Charges		USD	KSHS
PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING PHYSICALLY		\$100	19,500
PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY		\$100	13,800
STUDENTS		\$50	9,500
FARMERS		\$50	9,500
EXHIBITIONS		\$200	39,000
SIDE EVENTS		\$100	19,500

FOCUS AREAS

- ✓ Policy and Governance
- ✓ Agroecological Practices for Food Security and Climate Resilience
- ✓ Finance and Markets for Agroecology Transition
- ✓ Scientific Evidence and Innovation of Agroecology
- ✓ Women, Youth and PWDs in Agroecology

More Information: nationalagroecologysymposium.pelumkenya.net
For inquiries events@pelumkenya.net Mobile: +254709746939 or +254787347353

Organized by

Logos of partner organizations: BROT, biba, ZERO HUNGER, and others.



■ Participants of the 1st National Agroecology Symposium, following sessions

Photo Speak



1. Panelist for Farmer leaders n on agroecology practices.
2. Panelist for Women and youth in agroecology discussion.

3. Panelist for agroecology policies and governance.
4. A section of youth who participated in the National Agroecology symposium

Part of Exhibitions



1. Maasai Women Milk Cooperatives exhibition of value-added milk during 1st National Agroecology Symposium.
2. & 3. Lower Eastern Women Cooperative Society displaying their art works

Exhibitions Prize Giving



Best exhibitors receiving awards

Agroecology Polices Initiatives at The National and County Levels

The Launch of National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation 2024-2033

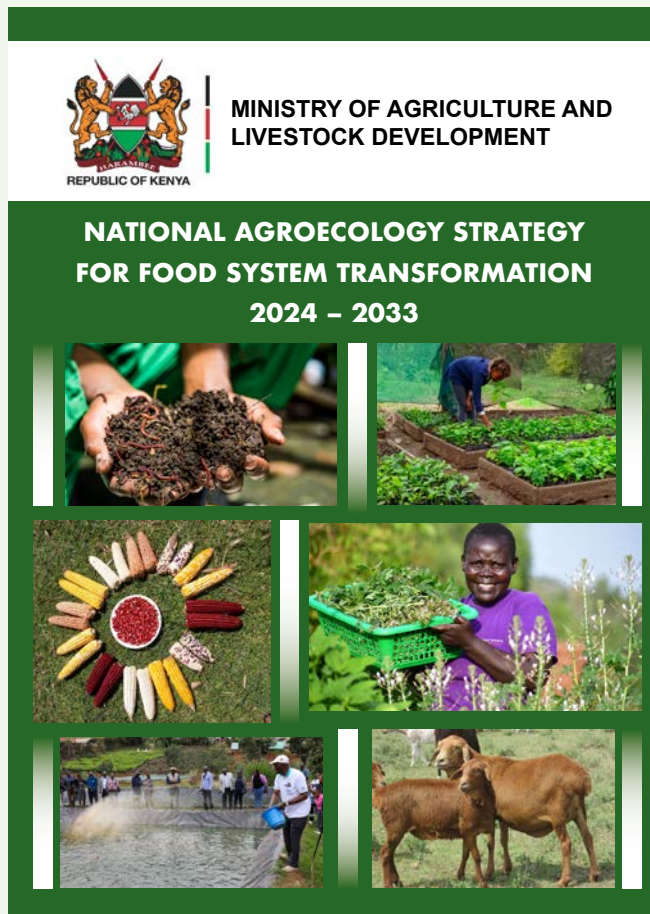
Kenya launched the National Agroecology Strategy in 2024. The event was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Dr. Andrew Karanja. The National Agroecology Strategy for Food



■ Dr. Andrew Karanja CS Agriculture and Livestock Development in the Middle, Left. Douglas Kangi, Agriculture Secretary and right Dr. Paul Rono Principal secretary Agriculture.



System Transformation 2024 -2033 aims overall goal o is to promote a sustainable transformation of the food system in Kenya to ensure food security and nutrition, climate resilient livelihoods and social inclusion for all. The government and stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to support the implementation of the strategy.



■ Dr. Karanja CS, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock development visit the GBIACK exhibition booth during the launch of NS-FST.

Vihiga Agroecology Policy

PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with the Alliance for Bioversity and CIAT, and with the support of the County Government of Vihiga, has facilitated the development of a draft Agroecology Policy. This policy underwent public consultations to gather views, inputs, and recommendations from stakeholders and community members. Additionally, Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and agricultural extension officers were sensitized on the policy to enhance their understanding of agroecology and their critical roles in its implementation.



■ Vihiga County public Consultation of Agroecology policy in the six sub counties.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF VIHIGA



PUBLIC NOTICE VIHIGA COUNTY AGROECOLOGY POLICY 2024

Pursuant to the requirements of The Constitution of Kenya 2010 and The Vihiga County Public Participation and Civic Education Act 2020. (.2). The Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Vihiga County; hereby invites farmers, civil societies, farmer organizations, stakeholders, interested person and the general public to submit their views on the Vihiga County Agroecology Policy 2024.

Kindly note that the draft policy can be accessed on the Vihiga County Government website: www.vihiga.go.ke

Schedule for physical citizen engagement at the sub-counties is as follows;

SUBCOUNTY	DATE	VENUE	TIME
Hamisi	13 th August, 2024	Gimarakwa P.A.G Church	9:00am – 2:00pm
Tiriki East	13 th August, 2024	Lusalanga Salvation Army	9:00am – 2:00pm
Luanda	14 th August, 2024	Ekwanda Revival Church	9:00am – 2:00pm
Emuhaya	14 th August, 2024	Mulwanda Church of God	9:00am – 2:00pm
Sabatia	15 th August, 2024	Kigama Friends Church	9:00am – 2:00pm
Vihiga	15 th August, 2024	Gavalagi Friends Church	9:00am – 2:00pm

Online submissions can be emailed to address: cdavihiga@gmail.com

Hon. Nicholas Kitungulu,

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF AGRICULTURE



■ Vihiga County extension officer's sensitization on the county Agroecology Policy

MOU Signing For Makueni County

In 2024, PELUM Kenya entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Makueni County Government to support the county in advancing agroecology. The partnership focuses on capacity

building for county staff and stakeholders, as well as supporting the development and formulation of the Makueni County Agroecology Strategy.



■ PELUM Kenya and Makueni County government sign a Memorandum of Understanding to support formulation of the Agroecology policy



World Food Day 2024 In Busia County

World Food Day (WFD) celebration: Partners joined Busia County in the WFD celebrations in Nambale sub county. The core partners participated in the exhibitions, which enhanced the events' participants awareness on agroecological products, practices and technologies.

Gsaili Core Partners Sensitization On

Held 1 1-day sensitization forum on Genetic Modified Organism (GMOs) and legal framework on seed at the international and National Level. This resulted in nine (9) core partners and one (1) technical partner increasing their knowledge on GMOs, implication on biodiversity, environment and legal framework for protection of Farmer Managed Seeds. (FMS).

PELUM Kenya contributed to policy formulation for:

- The seeds and plant varieties (Conservation, Access and Benefits Sharing of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) Regulations, 2024. This the regulation that aims to recognize the Rights of farmers and communities on seed and plant genetic resources their rights and highlights how community and farmers' rights will be exercised.
- The wetlands and riparian areas management policy
- Management of Alien and Invasive species
- Murang'a County Right to food regulation

County inception workshops for the Visibilize4ClimateAction Project

African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and PELUM Kenya participated in the Visibilize4ClimateAction project inception workshops in Maralal, Lodwar and Laikipia Counties from 1st to 10th July 2024. The project will highlight the impacts of climate change and Mental Health among vulnerable populations in East African Drylands to catalyze climate action at scale.

PELUM Kenya will be supporting Public and Policy Engagement in the three counties of Laikipia, Turkana and Samburu. The plan is to synergize with the KCOA Project as follows:

1. The Demo farms to be established in each of the county can also be used to train multipliers & conduct exposure visit
2. The project will also be generating KPs

3. PELUM Kenya will support policy engagement at Counties and National Level with positive steps in Laikipia County. The county has already pledged its support in drafting and enacting an Agroecology policy



■ Inception meeting on 1st and 2nd July 2024 in Nanyuki, Laikipia County.

Transformational Agroecology across Food, Land, and Water Systems Initiative (Agroecology Initiative)

During this reporting period, PELUM Kenya actively participated in and led several key agroecological activities aimed at promoting indigenous knowledge, community engagement, and policy advocacy. Notably, the African Indigenous Seed and Food Fair 2024, held in Tanzania, brought together over 1,000 participants from 15 African countries. The event promoted indigenous seeds and foods as critical to food security and nutrition. Highlights included policy advocacy for farmer-managed seed systems, field visits to agroecological institutions, and cultural food exhibitions. In parallel, the Outcome Evidence Workshop in DNRC and CSHEP ALLs allowed stakeholders to reflect on the impact of the Agroecology Initiative, while farmer learning visits facilitated knowledge exchange on agroecological trials.

PELUM Kenya also engaged in government outreach by conducting a courtesy call to the Makueni County Government, alongside Utooni Development Organization, to seek support for the upcoming Green Action Week (GAW). This was followed by the signing of a three-year MoU with the County Government of Makueni, which formalized collaboration on advancing agroecology through the creation of a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP). The MoU focuses on stakeholder mobilization, peer learning, and capacity building of county officers to promote sustainable food systems. The County Government committed to leading the MSP and supporting joint activities, reinforcing the partnership's strategic alignment with county development goals.

In terms of networking and farmer organization, exchange visits to CSHEP provided practical exposure to soil and pest management innovations. Despite

challenges such as language barriers and concerns over water-intensive practices, PELUM Kenya implemented inclusive strategies like local translation and tailored demonstrations. The experience revealed the need for pre-visit briefings and post-visit follow-ups, while also identifying opportunities for inter-regional collaboration. These engagements, combined with ongoing advocacy, have strengthened agroecological momentum across participating zones and set a solid foundation for scaling sustainable agricultural practices.

Organized the Green Action Week (GAW) on 16th October 2024 in Kibwezi West. Engagements were held with the departments of Lands, Urban Planning & Development, Environment & Climate Change, and Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock, Fisheries & Cooperative Development to secure county support and ensure the successful implementation of GAW activities.



■ Participants from PELUM association countries during the African Indigenous seeds and food fair 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania



■ PELUM Kenya and UDO staff with staff of the Makueni county department of Agriculture and environment during a courtesy call visit in preparation for the GAW Campaign



■ H.E Governor Mutula (third left) lead the two parties on display on the signed MoU



■ PELUM Kenya and UDO staff with staff of the Makueni county department of Agriculture and environment during a courtesy call visit in preparation for the GAW Campaign

In 2024, N&CZ significantly advanced its advocacy agenda through engagement with policymakers and community stakeholders. One of the year's highlights was a series of field learning visits for policymakers to EIPMA, RODI Kenya and GBIACK demonstration centers. These visits provided invaluable exposure to practical agroecology, offering firsthand understanding of how diversified farming systems enhance ecosystem resilience. Policymakers deepened their appreciation for traditional practices such as seed banking, recognizing their role in food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture. The visits helped frame the need for policies that support agroecological initiatives, including incentives for organic inputs, research funding, and strengthened extension services.

Further advocacy efforts included a targeted engagement meeting with county extension officers, co-organized with EIPMA. The meeting sought to reintroduce PELUM Kenya and partners' initiatives on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and soil health, and to identify avenues for collaboration in promoting

sustainable agriculture. Discussions focused on IPM's role in reducing dependency on chemical pesticides, promoting biodiversity, and mitigating environmental harm. Emphasis was also placed on farmer education regarding alternative pest management methods such as biological controls and cultural practices. The forum underscored the essential role of soil health, advocating for practices like crop rotation, soil testing, cover cropping, and organic amendments to promote long-term agricultural sustainability.

The zone also held a sensitization forum aimed at enhancing public participation in public finance management, particularly in Nyandarua County. The forum brought together 30 local leaders, religious representatives, and Ministry of Agriculture extension staff. Topics covered included the county budget-making process and tools for citizen engagement. The forum empowered attendees with knowledge and skills to influence resource allocation decisions and contribute to transparent, participatory governance in agriculture and natural resource management.



■ Members of the Kiambu County Assembly and extension staff during a learning visit to RODI and the EIPMA Centre.

Linking Pelum Kenya Grass Root and Local Initiatives with Global Agenda

COP 16 at CALI

PELUM Kenya participated in the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Cali Colombia. One key outcome of COP 16 was an expansion of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting biodiversity and on the groundbreaking operationalization of a new global mechanism to share benefits from the use of digital genetic information.

PELUM Kenya, contributed to side event on "Boosting Food Systems Transformations, linking Rural Communities to GBF implementations and peace with Nature Synergies" organized by WWF Colombia and "Empowering communities to restore land and Biodiversity through Incentives and Digital Innovation" organized by Alliance for Bioversity CIAT.



2nd from Right, Ms. Irungu, PELUM Kenya Policy Advocacy programme officer, participating in a side event organized by WWF Colombia

The zonal office and CREPP organized for an exchange learning for policy makers in Kisumu at Nyakach hosted by one of the PELUM Kenya MO i.e. DIG. The aim was to expose them to the various agroecological practices that small holder farmers in Nyakach have adopted. It aimed to show them that agroecology really works especially in drier areas and households that have adopted the approach have been able to feed their families and even extend to feed the community through sale of surplus. They were sensitized on the 10 agroecology elements and the 13 principles that farmers have tried to adopt. On biodiversity, they were able to learn that farmers are keen to have more than seven food varieties in their farm. They learnt some of the water techniques that have been adopted such as digging of water pans to trap run off water for irrigating vegetables during the dry season.

The World Soil Day (WSD), being observed annually on 5 December to focus attention on the importance of healthy soils and advocating for the sustainable management of soil resources, was held at Buchenya Grounds in Butere Sub-County, Buchenya Primary School was recognized as the best 4K Club in the country by the State Department of Agriculture. The theme for the WSD celebration this year "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage, underlines the importance of accurate soil data and information in understanding soils characteristics and informed decision-making on sustainable soil management for food security. The zonal office, among other stakeholders, joined the County government of Kakamega to commemorate the World Soil Day to highlight the importance of healthy soils and advocate for sustainable management practices. During the event that was held at in attendance were in charge County Executive Mr. Godfrey Owori, Chief Officer for Agriculture Mr. Emmanuel Kariuki, GIZ ProSoil Manager Mr. David Kertsing, farmers and other partners.



Kisumu county policy makers in nyakach demo site.



The WSD poster that was designed by the ZC and has since been appreciated by the CGOK for her support in poster making

The International Youth Day event took place at Slow Food Kenya offices, organized in collaboration with PELUM Kenya. This annual event is that is usually celebrated every 12th of August with this year's theme: "From clicks to progress: youth Digital pathways for

sustainable development". This event brought together youth from Nakuru and Baringo counties. The event was a collaborative effort featuring a diverse group of attendees, including the Youth



Youth exhibitions



Representative from Nakuru County, the Gender Representative from Nakuru County, a representative from the Danish Church Aid (DCA), and a member from the Kenya Youth Biodiversity Network (KYBN). During the event, the youth took the opportunity to discuss

the challenges they face, such as limited access to information on the ongoing matters, where the youth were addressed with assurances of continued support through online platforms and regular updates

Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

Supported in restoring a demonstration farm for Effective Integrated Pest Management (EIPMA) in Ruiru which has over 1 million plants of different species. This support replenished and equipped the demonstration farm after the farm seedlings were washed away by floods. Assorted agroforestry fruit species mainly has avocados, grafted mangoes and oranges were restored.

Supported Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE) to establish a Nature Based Enterprise (NBE) on beekeeping in Makueni county. The project aimed at empowering the community in sustainable honey production while promoting environmental conservation and economic development. 15 Langstroth beehives installed will benefit 31 community members

Seed bulking and pasture management 24th to 25th October 2024

increased awareness on seed bulking and pasture management among 20 smallholder farmers and pastoralists drawn from ASAL areas of LECZ and UENKZ 24th to 25th October 2024. The participants were exposed to best practices on pasture management, exposure on reseeding technologies applied by the host Baringo women and youth. The participants visited Laomolok and Eldeve Villages to learn about an approach on range reseeding using a locally adaptable grass species- *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Common name: Foxtail buffalo grass). In the village, 70 acres have been reseeded and now covered with grass

water conservation, sustainable water management, including water governance, watershed management, and rehabilitation, Diversification of Agro enterprises and Issues affecting pastoralists.



Mangrove planting at takaungu by Ms. Ratemo and Kenya Scout Volunteers from Kilifi County

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 endeavor to engage the communities through the member organizations on the following vital interventions; Natural Resource Management, Disaster preparedness, Climate governance, soil and

The Aberdares Watershed Management Project was a major focus under the sustainable natural resource management thematic area. Spearheaded in partnership with SACDEP, ICE, OACK, COSDEP, and RODI, the project aimed at developing vital environmental policies across Murang'a, Nyeri, Nyandarua, and Kiambu counties. These policies focused on wetland and riparian conservation, the management of alien and invasive species, agroecology, and broader natural resource management.

Progress in 2024 included the successful passage of two policies in Murang'a County: one addressing alien and invasive species, and the other focused on wetland and riparian area conservation. Nyandarua made notable advancements in its NRM policy, with drafts at an advanced stage. Meanwhile, Kiambu County demonstrated strong momentum on agroecology policy development and legislative processes. The project's emphasis on county-led priorities and multi-stakeholder participation approaches proved effective in driving policy processes forward. The initiative remains on track to finalize the key policies by mid-2025 and is expected to make a lasting impact on the ecological resilience of the Aberdares conservation area.



Mareira Dam in Muranga, identified as a key site for community-led conservation efforts under the Community Action Plan.

Tree planting at Marishoni Mau Forest 19th June 2024

The Members in collaboration with Kenya Forest Service and Slow Food Kenya organized a tree planting event in Mau Forest Marishoni, 3,714 Indigenous and Agro forestry fruit seedlings were planted, PELUM Kenya provided 2,000 (1000 Indigenous tree seedlings. The Community members from the surrounding Environment were supplied with 1,000 Agro forestry Fruit seedlings) for planting. Other stakeholders who participated in providing trees were ADS Western 1,514 Indigenous tree seedlings, Ewasonyiro Soil Development Agency donated 200 indigenous tree seedlings and Seedballs Kenya provided 30,000 seed ball.



Representatives from RODI Kenya and PELUM Kenya during a courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor, Nyeri County.



Representatives from COSDEP Kenya and KFS (Uplands Forester, Mr. Isaac) engage in a bamboo planting exercise along River Mukuyu, aimed at promoting riverbank restoration and environmental conservation.

Kenyan Local Conference of Youth (LCOY)

Kenyan Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) organized the Conference in Mombasa from 17th - 19th September 2024. The Theme of the Conference: Building Generations for Climate Resilience. Over 100 Youth from all over the Country participated. A Caravan Walk was held in Kilifi on 19th September 2024.

PELUM Kenya was represented by 11 Participants Youth from GSAILI Co Partners and PELUM Kenya Member Organization from the following.

1. West Gem Farmers' Association (WEGFA)
2. Western Tree Planters Association (WETPA)
3. Kenya Scouts Association (KSA)
4. 3KM SACCO LTD
5. KIMAET Farmers CBO
6. Marakwet Highland Farmers Association

7. Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum (TTWF)
8. Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE)
9. PELUM Kenya.

The overarching objective of the Kenyan Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) is to empower and mobilize youth across the country to take proactive steps in addressing climate change while actively contributing to national and global climate processes

Climate Change Stakeholders forum

The Event involved Stakeholders representation from Governance and Social Accountability for Improved Livelihoods (GSAILI) Co Partners, Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Kenya Forest Service. The forum was held in Bungoma Milimani hotel, later a Caravan Walk was held in Bungoma Town to sensitize the public on climate change and the need to increase more funds in Africa for adaptation.

In July 2024, the Upper Mwitasyano community underwent a sensitization process aimed at creating awareness on the formation of a Water Resource Users Association (WRUA). The initiative, which targeted

both men and women, emphasized the importance of community participation in water governance. While the process generated interest and led to the identification of potential leaders, it also revealed challenges such as low literacy levels among women and minimal youth participation, which hindered inclusive representation. Despite these setbacks, the community was encouraged to begin mobilizing resources for WRUA registration and prepare for the election of their leaders.

On 6th August 2024, a follow-up mission was conducted to facilitate the WRUA general elections, initiate constitution formulation, and brief members on the legal requirements for registration. The elections were successfully held, with leaders chosen through a participatory process, although some disputes over representation were resolved through dialogue. The community was also guided on mobilizing Kshs. 6,500 for registration and agreed to finalize the WRUA constitution by the end of September 2024. Recommendations included organizing exchange visits for elected leaders to learn from other established WRUAs and advocating for adult education to improve women's participation in future governance processes.



Community sensitization meeting at Kang'onde location.



WRA Community Engagement officer for Tiva / Tyaa Sub-basin area addressing community members in a meeting at Kyasioni location

Turning Waste into Wealth: Nature-Positive Solutions Empower Farmers in Western Kenya

In a powerful push toward circular bioeconomy and climate resilience, PELUM Kenya, in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), is implementing the Nature-Positive Solutions for Shifting Agrifood Systems to More Resilient and Sustainable Pathways project. Focused on recycling under work package four (4), the project's second phase (January–April 2024) was rolled out through four dynamic member organizations—CREPP in Kisumu, STIPA in Kisumu,

BIOGI in Vihiga, and ADS-Western in Vihiga - reaching an impressive 622 farmers, surpassing the initial target of 500.

Activities included intensive capacity building, orientation of IWMI representatives to the PELUM Kenya network, and co-design of Business Model Canvases (BMCs) for community enterprises initiated in phase one. Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) gained enhanced knowledge on nutrient,



energy, and food recovery from agro-waste, while farmers were empowered to turn waste into income-generating products. The project also gained visibility during the Vihiga County Agricultural Expo, where participants showcased their innovations and witnessed how transitioning from subsistence farming to agribusiness is becoming a reality. With increased awareness, improved business acumen, and real market exposure, the Nature-Positive Solutions project is proving that sustainable farming can be smart, profitable, and regenerative.

Makwagla women group that benefitted from the NPS project during one of their group meetings

Strengthening Water Governance in Bungoma and Kilifi

On 27th August 2024, PELUM Kenya, in partnership with 3KM Sacco, hosted a high-impact engagement forum on water governance in Kimilili, Bungoma County. The forum convened 27 key stakeholders, including the Kenya Forest Service, Bungoma County Government (Departments of Irrigation and Agriculture), and four Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs): Sirgoi, Kibingei, Kimilili, and Sosio. A significant outcome was the commitment from the Water Resources Authority (WRA) Kitale office to support the review of sub-catchment management plans, pending logistical support. However, a critical gap identified was the minimal involvement of youth in WRUA leadership, prompting deliberate efforts to encourage youth membership as a pathway to leadership roles.

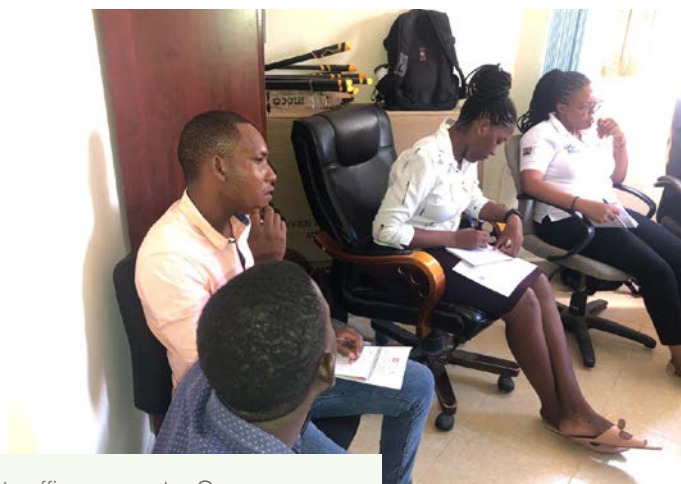
Building on this momentum, a one-day sensitization forum on water conservation and sustainable management practices was held. Participants developed a community-

driven call to action, later presented to Kilifi County officials during a strategic meeting on 28th November 2024. The meeting explored how the county's water and sub-county departments could address local water challenges more effectively.

In a bid to promote environmental resilience, PELUM Kenya also coordinated the planting of 1,000 mangrove seedlings in Taking. The Kivurini Community Association played a vital role in both the planting and the sensitization of 37 participants—36 of whom were youth—on the importance of mangrove ecosystems. To further boost awareness, 1,000 information packs on natural resource management were developed and distributed across the five WRUAs under 3KM, empowering communities to become proactive custodians of their water and forest resources.



Engagement meeting at Snowline hotel by core partners and water related stakeholder in Bungoma on water governance.



Engagement forum and the Kilifi County offices on water Governance



Mangrove planting at takaungu by Ms. Ratemo and Kenya Scout Volunteers from Kilifi County



Water harvesting and management sensitization forum for core partners in Mtwapa

Restoring Bukhokolo: Community Steps Up to Save Their Dam and Forests

In a powerful display of local action for environmental conservation, the Zonal Coordinator (ZC) led a one-day community dialogue in Bukhokolo Village to address the pressing challenges facing the Bukhokolo Dam. Though the dam remains functional, it is threatened by sedimentation and unchecked livestock grazing, which have destroyed many of the trees planted during World Environment Day celebrations.

The meeting sparked a collaborative response: PELUM Kenya pledged to provide barbed wire for fencing, while the Chief Officer for Environment committed to engaging BAT Company for cemented fence pillars. Plans were made to hold a community sensitization forum focused on the importance of water conservation and volunteer mobilization around dam protection.

The spirit of conservation was also echoed during the PELUM Kenya AGM, where over 20,000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted in Marioshoni, supported by the Kenya Forest Service and surrounding communities. Tree varieties included Dombeya, Rosewood, Prunus Africana, and assorted seed balls of Cider, Olea Africana, and Podocarpus. In addition, MEAP and DIG amplified climate change education through one-hour radio talk shows on Radio Yetu FM (Nakuru) and Jowi FM (Kisumu), covering water management, crop rotation, agroforestry, and precision agriculture. These combined efforts reflect a growing movement to restore ecosystems, protect vital water sources, and build climate resilience from the ground up.



Participants from MEAP and DIG at Jowi FM and Radio yetu FM for a climate change practices in agroecology awareness.

Hiking for Healing: Mt. Longonot Restoration Hike Sparks Hope for Ecosystems.



Participants from MEAP and DIG at Jowi FM and Radio yetu FM for a climate change practices in agroecology awareness.

The slopes of Mount Longonot came alive with purpose during a collaborative restoration hike organized by PELUM Kenya in partnership with KYBN, CSHEP, Seedballs Kenya, Red Cross, and Peace Ambassadors Kenya (PAK). Held at the breathtaking Mount Longonot National Park, the event combined adventure with environmental action, aiming to raise awareness about ecosystem restoration while actively contributing to it.

Participants trekked to the summit while engaging in

impactful conservation activities, including the planting of 100 indigenous trees within the park and the donation of 400 more trees to park authorities for future planting. To supercharge natural regeneration, 100,000 seedballs—each containing native tree seeds—were scattered across degraded areas of the park. This nature-positive initiative not only strengthened reforestation efforts but also showcased the power of youth, partnerships, and purposeful movement in restoring Kenya's iconic landscapes.

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.



Speakers/panelists after the side event at the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in Nairobi. The session topic was Agroecological and organic farming systems in Africa – transformation towards system resilience and sustainable production and consumption (Organized by KCOA-KHEA)

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.

Seed Fair

On September 20, 2024, PELUM Kenya hosted a seed fair at the Drylands Natural Resources Centre (DNRC) in Mbumbuni, Makueni County. The event served as a platform to advance seed sovereignty among farmers by encouraging the sharing of experiences and lessons learned in farmers-managed seed systems. It brought together stakeholders from multiple countries—including farmers, member organizations, and experts—to promote indigenous seed preservation and strengthen seed exchange practices across the region.

Key Activities and Participation

The seed fair featured a variety of interactive sessions, including panel discussions, seed exchange displays,

and media engagement. Twelve representatives from key organizations such as Kitui Development Centre (KDC), Inades Formation Kenya (IFK), Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE), Biovision Africa Trust (BVAT), and DNRC participated, representing Makueni, Kitui, Machakos, and Kajiado counties. Farmers shared practical insights into traditional seed management techniques, participated in live seed exchanges, and engaged in dialogue on biodiversity and climate resilience.

Lessons and Insights

Key lessons from the event emphasized the importance of collaboration, traditional knowledge, and ongoing capacity building in promoting seed sovereignty. Discussions revealed challenges posed by modern agricultural practices and climate change, reinforcing the urgency for community-driven, resilient seed systems. The fair highlighted the need for policy advocacy, continuous stakeholder engagement, and the establishment of local seed-saving networks to safeguard biodiversity and empower communities to maintain control over their seed resources.



Indigenous food on display during the seed fair in DNRC



Farmers' display on Indigenous seed best suited for drylands, such as the lower eastern and the different seed-saving methods that farmers can use during the seed fair in DNRC in 2024

Under the Agro-Enterprise and Market Development thematic area, Nairobi & Central Zone organized three major farmer-centered events aimed at improving knowledge exchange, enhancing farmer visibility, and strengthening market access for agroecological products. These events included a Farmers' Field Day, an On-Farm Exhibition, and the World Food Day 2024 Celebrations.

Held in collaboration with member organizations such as GBIACK, COSDEP, and OACK, and supported by external partners including the Ministry of Agriculture, Organix Ltd, Amica Sacco, Ikumbi Tea Factory, and Home Biogas, the events created critical spaces for learning, innovation sharing, and business linkage. Each gathering attracted a wide cross-section of stakeholders—from farmers and

agro-processors to government representatives and financial institutions.

The Farmers' Field Day offered participants an opportunity to learn practical skills from peer demonstrations and partner-led sessions. Farmers showcased soil conservation techniques, composting methods, and low-cost innovations to improve yields and resilience. Meanwhile, the On-Farm Exhibition gave farmers a platform to present value-added products and build direct relationships with potential buyers.

The world food day was held in collaboration with GBLACK under the global theme "Water is Life, Water

is Food. Leave No One Behind". The discussions emphasized the critical role of water management and sustainable agriculture in ensuring resilient food systems and equitable access to resources.

The celebrations served as a platform for participants to reflect on the urgent need to conserve water in agricultural production, promote climate-resilient practices, and recognize smallholder farmers as central to food system transformation. Participants were given a farm tour to showcase agroecological solutions that optimize water use, improve soil health, and sustain livelihoods - especially in the face of growing climate challenges.



Farmers engaging and learning together during the Farmers Field Day in Githunguri



Farmers learning water-conserving techniques like fertility trenches and vertical gardens during the World Food Day (WFD) event.



Farmers showcasing a variety of herbs and spices products during the farm exhibition & field day in Murang'a.



Githunguri Sub-County Agricultural Officer presenting banana suckers to youth attendees of the Field Day, recognizing their efforts in agriculture.

Training on Biopesticides and Biofertilizers – Kajiado, 2024

In 2024, a practical training session on biopesticides and biofertilizers was conducted in Kajiado County to promote the adoption of eco-friendly farm inputs. Organized with a focus on sustainable agriculture, the training empowered farmers with knowledge and hands-on skills in the preparation and use of natural alternatives to synthetic chemicals. Participants learned to make and apply inputs such as ash brew, tithonia and comfrey plant teas, animal manure tea, pawpaw leaf extract, onion water, organic tobacco spray, and lemon-honey fruit fly traps. Special attention was given to localized solutions like converting the invasive *Ipomoea carnea* into compost, showcasing how farmers can turn environmental challenges into opportunities. These practices not only enhance soil health and crop quality but also contribute to environmental conservation and reduced input costs.

The training emphasized the benefits of integrating organic inputs into daily farm routines, including improved soil fertility, pest control, and long-term sustainability. Participants were particularly inspired by the effectiveness of local materials and the importance of community collaboration in developing shared agricultural solutions. However, challenges such as limited awareness, lack of technical knowledge, and resistance to changing from conventional practices were noted. These were addressed through demonstrations, discussions, and testimonies from farmers who have successfully adopted eco-friendly approaches. The session concluded with a strong commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture in Kajiado, supported by ongoing training and community-led innovation.



Practical session during the preparation of biofertilizers facilitated by Emmanuel Kileti

Funding Opportunities for Women and Youth in Agriculture – 2024

In 2024, concerted efforts were made to empower women and youth in agriculture through access to targeted funding opportunities and support services. Key among these was the Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), a government initiative providing interest-free loans, capacity building, and market linkage support to female entrepreneurs across Kenya. WEF played a critical role in enhancing women's economic participation by offering subsidized credit, business training, and platforms for connecting with larger enterprises and markets. This enabled many women-led groups in Kajiado to access essential financial and technical resources, strengthening their productivity and resilience in agribusiness.

Similarly, the Uwezo Fund continued to provide accessible credit and entrepreneurial training to women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Its flexible group and

individual loan structures, combined with mentorship and business development services, helped beneficiaries gain vital business skills and improve their livelihoods. Complementing these efforts, the Ministry of Agriculture in Kajiado supported initiatives such as NAVCDP, SIVAP, and ASDSP to improve value chains, food security, and conflict resolution. Equity Bank-Voi also contributed through tailored agricultural loans and financial literacy training. The collaboration between these institutions demonstrated a shared commitment to poverty reduction, gender equality, and economic inclusion. However, challenges such as weak communication channels and limited project survival rates were noted, prompting recommendations for increased funding and better utilization of available support systems by local communities.



Staff of Uwezo, Youth Enterprise Fund, and Equity Bank are taking participants through their respective products during a forum for youth and women on available funding opportunities in Voi Taita Taveta County.

Farmers' training on Value Addition and Food Processing

PELUM Kenya together with GBIACK Multipliers for a 3-Days training on Value Addition and Food Processing from 24th to 26th January 2024 in Matungulu, Machakos County. Trained 57 Farmers (18 Males, 32 females With 8 youth) on value Addition and food processing.

The objective of the training is to address post-harvest losses through value addition and marketing with consideration of food safety and emphasis on trader/consumer market demand. This training is targeted small scale farmers in fruit trees and vegetable production in Kilimambogo zone (Donyo, kitini, Mithini, Kitambasye and Kwa Mwaura farmers). The sundrier is part of the practical during the training on value addition to Mwang'a Organic farmer group meant 28 farmers to dry their excess harvest e.g. vegetables, fruits and herbs

Theory session of the training on value addition and food processing





Theory session of the training on value addition and food processing



Practical session on making juice and jam from fruits (mango and pawpaw) in Matungulu, Machakos

Graduation of PGS Assessors and Trainers

PELUM Kenya Country Coordinator, Rosinah Mbenya was able to be the Chief Guest on 2nd August 2024 at the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network Graduation event for 11 Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Assessors and Trainers.

This is a significant step towards enhancing Local Organic Markets. It was inspiring to see the National Committee Members and 17 PGS Participants in attendance.



Graduation of PGS Assessors in Sports view Hotel on 2nd August 2024



Supported 5 PGS Training of 5 farmer groups in Kisumu, Machakos, Laikipia and Kajiado Counties

In September, October and November 2024, PELUM Kenya organized five (5) PGS Trainings for 5 PGS Farmer groups between September and November 2024.

During the PGS training in Kiserian, the farmers agreed to form a new PGS Group (Organic Heritage) rather than join the existing 3000 Nooya Group. Majority of farmers are in the value chains of herbs, vegetables, poultry with some doing value addition. KHEA Project officer Trained the farmers on the DKP and Gender Tools (Vision Road Journey).

Smart Point Integrated Youth Group have leased 2-acre land thus cannot be PGS Certified but rather 3rd party certification since they do not fit the dynamics of PGS Groups with peer review as they share one farm.

In 2025, the project will explore PGS Certification for the 4 farmer groups Kochogo Central Organic Farmers in Ahero, Mukameni Organic Farmers Group in Mukameni, Machakos County, Lekiji Farmers Group and Organic Heritage Farmers Group



Organic Heritage farmers group



KHEA Project Officer training farmers on Gender Tool - Vision Road Journey



Exposure visits for PGS Farmers to Waruhiu Training Centre in Githunguri

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with CSHEP organized an exposure visit for Kiserian PGS Farmers (3000 Nooya and Organic Heritage) as they wished to learn on Biogas production and solar production. The trip had an 88% turnout with 29 farmers (22 females and 7 males).



Entrance to the exhibition side Right: Farmers arriving at the Waruhiu training Centre, Githunguri on on 28th November 2024

Farmers learning Biogas system at the exhibition tents Right: Farmers pausing for a photo after farm tour



Participated in Biofach and Gender Networking Meetings in Nuremberg, Germany

Biofach is the World's leading/International Trade Fair for Organic Food and Agriculture. Biofach attracted exhibitors and visitors from around the globe not limited to farmers, producers, distributors, retailers, certifiers etc. PELUM Kenya was privileged to have the Country

Coordinator, Master Trainer and KCOA Project Officer who were supported by BVAT/GIZ to attend the Biofach and Gender Networking meetings from 11th to 16th February 2024.



Guided tour for the KCOA and EOA-I delegates at Biofach 2024.



At the KOAN exhibition space with KCOA delegates from Kenya and Tanzania



Left: Group photo of the Gender focal persons from the KCOA hubs who participated in the side event as panelists. KCOA Project and IFOAM - Organics International hosted a side event on "Women Change-makers in Africa: Insights and experiences for food system transformation"



Key Lesson Learnt

- Attending the side events by FIBL and IFOAM was eye-opening. It was important to gather findings/lessons from projects/research on organic agriculture in Africa.
- There is a need to sensitize value chain actors to stick to one niche. It can be a producer, distributor, supplier etc. Most of the exhibitors knew their niche and capitalized on it to make profits.
- Biofach provides an amazing platform to network and socialize and learn about new trends & advancements in Organic Agriculture.
- Given the global emphasis on sustainability and environmental stewardship, it was informative to learn from the exhibitors what organic value chain actors can do. For example, eco-friendly packaging, minimizing waste and conserving biodiversity.

Participated in Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit

PELUM Kenya was represented by 5 PELUM Kenya staff and 3 multipliers exhibiting under the BVAT/KCOA Tent.

The Country Coordinator of PELUM Kenya was a panelist discussion.

- Integrated soil health management for productive, inclusive, sustainable farming and food systems in Africa: Exploring the role of agroecology and regenerative agriculture (Organized by CAADP-XP4, DeSIRA LIFT and IFAD).
- Agroecological and organic farming systems in Africa – transformation towards system resilience and sustainable production and consumption (Organized by KCOA-KHEA).

Take Aways

1. There is need in Enhancing Local Production of Organic Fertilizers.
2. There is need to Advocate for policies that support Agroecology, including subsidies for organic inputs and stricter regulations on chemical fertilizers.



Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit with multipliers, staff from PELUM Kenya and PELUM Zambia.



Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health summit with representative of the Kenya Country Validation Committee (Dr Nehemiah Mihindo 2nd left and Prof Aggrey Nyende 2nd right)

Learning and sharing on marketing agro ecology product workshop

The workshop was held in Nakuru from 25th to 27th July 2024. The purpose of the training was therefore to equip the lead farmers and extension officers with knowledge and skills in marketing their Organic produce and organic certifications required for them to win preference in the

market thus ensure access to premium markets and higher returns for the farmers. 12 Member Organization from ABN and PELUM Kenya participated. The 3 days' workshop included a field visit on 26th July 2024. The Participants visited BELACOM group based in Langa

langua Gilgil where they were exposed to farm seed saving practices, how to save the indigenous seeds from extinction, water harvesting technologies, multistorey gardening, making of bokashi fertilizer among other agroecological practices. Later in the afternoon, the participants visited an agroecology market at Langua-langua Market where they got to see different agroecology products displayed at the market. They were able to interact with the farmers and members of BELACOM PGS group and understand how the market runs.

TENWEK was supported by the zonal office to organize an exchange learning in Nakuru hosted by Slow Food Kenya. They visited the SFK offices in Nakuru for horizontal learning before progressing to visit a farmer champion in agroecology called Beatrice in Gilgil. The farmers had an interactive session at Beatrice's farm

who was joined by other farmers in her group. The day's engagement included: Hands-On Farming, Skill-Building, Soil and Water Conservation, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, Reflection and knowledge exchange, Collaborative Farming and Cultural Exchange.

The Indigenous Seed and Food Culture Harvest Event Fair was organized to celebrate and promote Indigenous seeds, foster knowledge sharing among local farmers, and highlight the importance of biodiversity in sustainable agriculture. The zonal office supported participants from DIG, REFSO, ADSW and CREPP where they were able to showcase indigenous seeds and crops significant to the local agricultural landscape. Promote seed exchange and build a seed-saving culture among farmers, and foster knowledge-sharing on sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity.



Participants from TENWEK during and exchange learning in Gilgil on Bioinputs



Connecting communities through knowledge –DIG field officer Vincent Onyango spearheading insightful exhibition.

World Food Day Celebrations in Kakamega

The county government of Kakamega organized for the World Food Day at John Mmbasu's farm in Malava. The theme for the day was "Right to foods for a better life and a better future; leave no one behind". The guest of honor was the County governor Hon. Fernandes Barasa alongside other county officials. The zonal office was able to support 46 farmers drawn from ADSW, RIPPLE EFFECT and RODI KENYA who are the members based in Kakamega.

The aim of the event was to promote awareness and actions to combat hunger, malnutrition, and ensure food security. The 2024 theme is centered on building resilient, sustainable, and inclusive agri-food systems to address climate change and food insecurity challenges. There were various exhibitions at the venue included; seeds, fish feeds, pond liners fingerlings bee hives, compost manures, demos at the farm for different crop varieties and pasture feeds, selected livestock eg rabbits, cattle and goats and various farming methods graced the

occasion in what the county governor Fernandez Barasa termed as best practices to stamp out poverty not only in the county but the country at large.

Exchange and learning visit for lead farmers and members extension officers

July 14th, 2024, SAPAD hosted exchange and learning visit forum comprising of MOs from UENKZ at heir centers agroecological demonstration firm to enhance the agricultural knowledge of farmers and extension staff more so on production. The demo showcased improve vegetable production techniques by use of raised beds, sunken beds and vertical gardening, composting unit to improve soil fertility, herbs and spices unit and the role they play in pest management, tree nursery unit for production and multiplication of indigenous tree seedlings and the role they play in regeneration of degraded landscapes and mitigation of climate change effects. at the livestock unit the participants learned on diverse protein rich fodder especially for goat rearing.



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.

Gender and Youth Inclusion in Agroecology



AWOLA Cohort 2 from Kenya, Uganda & Zimbabwe during annual reflection meeting

Africa Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA)

The year 2024 was an exceptional year for the African Women Leaders in agroecology (AWOLA) Initiative. We experienced immense growth from the mentees in the three countries and graduated the first AWOLA cohort and launched AWOLA Cohort 1 stories of change. It was a very productive year where we recruited and onboarded a new cohort. In addition, AWOLA is now spreading its wings to West Africa (Nigeria and Senegal) and North Africa (Morocco and Tunisia) with new partners coming on board to implement AWOLA cohort 3 in 2025. The second cohort includes a diverse group of individuals, ranging from youth to industry leaders, each bringing a unique set of experiences that enrich the AWOLA initiative creating a dynamic and vibrant blend of creative and colorful perspectives.

AWOLA Cohort 2 From PELUM Uganda, PELUM Kenya & PELUM Zimbabwe had exciting leadership journey through a one-year mentorship program. The program had immense impact on the mentees' social, professional, and agro-business growth across the three countries implementing the AWOLA project. The participants

engaged in various activities geared toward building their leadership capacities and giving the platforms to explore their leadership-acquired skills and experiences acquired during the program.

The AWOLA mentors and mentees were successfully matched, and regular monthly meetings facilitated ongoing engagement and support. Additionally, both parties participated in bilateral meetings to enhance their collaborative efforts. The initiative also organized educational visits, participation in workshops, exhibitions, and peer to peer learning, enriching the leadership experience for all participants. The Mentees proactively outlined their goals and aspirations through concept notes, which, with mentors' guidance, will help them work towards tangible outcomes. However, realizing these objectives requires additional funding, and the challenge of distance persists, as many participants are in remote areas, hampering effective communication. Overall, the AWOLA initiative made great strides in fostering meaningful connections and providing valuable opportunities for learning and growth throughout the year.

The program had notable achievement which included but not limited to outputs and outcomes achieved 60% of Women's agroecological business initiatives & innovations enhanced, 56 % of Women actively participating in Agroecology policy influencing, Improved capacity for women in Agroecology Principles, practice and enterprise development which was evidence through initiatives undertaken and success stories. THE AWOLA team actively participated in the notable workshops listed below; AAE and TM Convening (September 11-12, 2024): This convening, hosted by Kufunda Village, gathered 150 Agroecological Entrepreneurs and Territorial Market Leaders to discuss agroecological entrepreneurship and territorial markets.



Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) Bi-annual Conference (September 13-14, 2024): The 5th Biennial Food Systems Conference, held in partnership with PELUM Zimbabwe, focused on promoting traditional and indigenous foods, healthy diets, and sustainable food systems in Africa. The event brought together 400 stakeholders from 20 African countries.

Participation in the 20th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Partnership Platform, a policy dialogue and accountability platform celebrating the achievements of the CAADP Agenda.

As a result of this, there is increased networking opportunities, mentees acquiring, and enhancing the existing knowledge, skills, new techniques and strategies, and engagements with stakeholders, including policy actors, government agencies, financial institutions, business service providers, input dealers, and non-governmental organizations.

Gender Transformative Approaches in Agroecology Workshop

PELUM Kenya network is keen on building members capacity to embrace and integrate gender in the program and the work they do every day. Recognizing the importance of gender equality in promoting sustainable agricultural development, PELUM Kenya organized a two-day training on the Gender Transformative Approaches in Agriculture for PELUM Kenya staff and 18 Members organization who had been subgrantee under PENELI 3 at Verona Hotel, Nairobi. The workshop participants included managers, department heads in different sectors of their respective organization. The project aim was to build their capacity in gender transformative programming, reporting, administration and integration in agroecology. The training highlighted role of women in agroecology and historical barriers hindering them from effectively engaging and having equal benefit in agroecology. The agricultural sector has traditionally been dominated by men, often marginalizing the contributions and needs of women.

The overall aim of the training was to enhance and build the capacity of the participants on gender transformative approaches in agroecology. The other aim was to equip participants with knowledge, skills and tools for understanding the concepts gender, gender equality, equity, feminism, intersectionality, gender mainstreaming,

and gender analysis. The training also aimed at empowering participants to scale up the application of gender mainstreaming and transformative approaches in agroecology programs and interventions.

The training was officially opened by PELUM Kenya's Programs Manager, Manei Naanyu. The participants were welcomed and briefed on the importance of being gender champions and advocates at PELUM as an organization and the society at large. Ms. Manei Naanyu called upon the participants to be open to learn and pointed out that they were particularly keen to understand the dynamics of gender mainstreaming. She also underscored the desire for the participants to understand intricacies of gender responsive reporting, and "not just reporting number of women involved in a project.

Gender disparities in agriculture have long been a barrier to achieving sustainable agricultural development. Various studies indicate that women in the agriculture sector face significant challenges, including limited access to productive and reproductive resources and decision-making processes. The training was aligned with key national policies such as Kenya National Policy on Gender and Development that seek to promote gender equality and empower policy implementers to be aware

about and apply gender transformative approaches in agricultural interventions, programs and activities.

The main objectives of this training on Gender Transformative Approaches in Agriculture were:

- **Increase Awareness:** Raise awareness among participants about gender inequalities in agriculture and their impact on productivity and development.
- **Enhance Skills and Knowledge:** Equip participants with practical tools, strategies, and knowledge to address gender disparities in agricultural practices and policies in their day-to-day work.
- **Promote Gender-Sensitive Policies:** Encourage the development and implementation of gender-sensitive policies and practices within their organizations and the communities they serve.
- **Foster Inclusive Environments:** Create a supportive and inclusive environment where both men and women can actively participate and benefit equally from agricultural activities.
- **Empower Women:** Empower participants to support and strengthen the capacity of the communities they work with to improve access to resources, training, and decision-making processes.
- **Build Networks and Collaboration:** Facilitate networking and collaboration among participants to share experiences, challenges, and best practices in promoting gender equality in agriculture.
- **Develop Action Plans:** Guide participants in creating concrete action plans to implement gender transformative approaches in their respective roles and Gender disparities in agriculture have long been a barrier to achieving sustainable agricultural development.

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Gender exchange learning in Uganda

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) supported PELUM Kenya staff for a Gender and Learning Exchange to PELUM Uganda from August 19 to 23, 2024. PELUM Kenya was represented by all staff from the management, programmes, finance and administration departments. The exchange visit aimed to improve the knowledge and practices of PELUM Kenya and PELUM Uganda on gender issues and integrate the experience gained from the visit into their day-to-day work.

Both PELUM Uganda and PELUM Kenya are national chapters under the PELUM Regional associations in Uganda and Kenya respectively. PELUM Uganda has 74 member Organizations spread across all the 122 Districts of Uganda, while PELUM Kenya has 63 members across the 47 Counties. Both reach over 1 million smallholder farmers and women constitute majority of the target group.

PELUM Uganda is strong on gender issues, such as using the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach in programming, gender mainstreaming, gender advocacy forums, and gendering the programs, policies, and facilities. It also has a gender lens in each undertaking. PELUM Uganda has also clearly defined that 60% of its program beneficiaries have to be women.

PELUM Kenya has a thematic area that focuses on gender, particularly women and youth, and that's why this exchange was important for staff to learn how other organizations are ensuring that women and youth take center stage in their programmes.

The following were the visit objectives;

- Share and exchange best practices in mainstreaming gender in policies, programs and budgets.
- Understand the linkages and intersectionality of gender, agroecology, climate change, legislation and sustainable development.
- Experiential learning of different gender mainstreaming models from the PELUM Uganda team.
- Learn PELUM Uganda's experiences on gender mainstreaming and integration of its beneficiaries.

During the exchange learning, PELUM Uganda shared a presentation on integrating gender in their various projects, including advocacy, land rights, agroecological market integration, climate change mitigation and natural resources management among others. They shared multiple models they use to advance gender equality and equity in their training, for example, Gender Action Learning System, (GALS,) Climate Resilience Agroecosystems Model (CREAME), PESA model, among others. We also visited PELUM Uganda member; Agency for Integrated Rural Development (AFIRD), which has a strong program on gender, and showed us clearly how they have integrated gender in their programmes. We also visited two farmers' groups that have been using GALS since 2022 and showed their understanding on gender-specific needs, priorities, and interests and have leveraged this to promote gender equality in the community. They have also recognized various issues that hinder any gender from actively participating in the community and are using GALS gender transformative models to address those gaps at family, group, and community levels. The GALS knowledge has promoted group cohesiveness, increased income at home, family well-being, reduced violence, and general happiness in the families.

PELUM Uganda also conducts regular gender audits of the groups and gender analyses before any project starts undertaking new projects to ensure they know gender needs and priorities and address both gender practical and strategic needs. PELUM Kenya team had many key genders learning take aways ranging from understanding gender equality status in Uganda and efforts taken by PELUM Uganda to promote gender equality and entry level for gender integration at organization, projects and farmer level.

PELUM Kenya learnt how to report on the impact of gender, which requires clearly answering questions about whether the project focused on gender empowerment domains and whether it has addressed gender mainstreaming principles, which include participation of women and men, decision-making power dynamics and welfare and well-being of women and men.

To ensure we are achieving gender equality, gender should be integrated onset of the project from planning to reporting where there is gender-sensitive indicators in each stage of the project. Gender analysis is key and should be part of the baseline to give a factual reality of the gender relations in the community. Gender-responsive reporting must outline how the project has influenced gender participation, leadership status of women, their welfare, economic status and overall social relations. The

program should use gender transformative approaches which promote women's agency and interrogate social structure and social relations which are underlying root causes of gender inequalities. The project should also ensure how gender inequalities play in domains of influence at the individual, household, community, policies, laws and institution which play a critical role in the success of promoting gender equality and adoption of gender transformative approaches.

The team learnt GALS approaches used by PELUM Uganda to initiate gender dialogues in the community. This ensures the farmers oversee driving gender conversations, can address the root causes and are able to recognize women and men have different needs, priorities, different power relations and structures. GALS also ensures that women and men can address their gender issues through ensuring their equal participation in projects, group leadership, group activities and benefits of group enterprises are shared equally having in mind women triple gender role (productive, reproductive & community) which affects their fully participation.

PELUM Kenya staff also learnt that it is important to challenge systems, law and policies to be gender sensitive and allocate resources to ensure effective participation of men, women and youth in development.



Both teams sharing on their vision road journey

The gender learning exchange was incredible and inspiring where both teams equally learnt and enjoyed. Gender is a critical issue that must be addressed across all areas in the organization as emphasized on PELUM Kenya mandate of empowering farmers and ensuring no one is left behind including women, men, youths

and people living with a disability. The learning and experiences shared will empower PELUM Kenya staff to integrate gender in their thematic areas by ensuring equal gender-effective participation in projects, decision-making, and leadership. They will also use the various tools to empower member organizations to cascade the

training to the farmers including GALS and other models. This will ensure PELUM Kenya network upholds principles of gender equity and equality and that their initiatives are gender transformative.

PELUM Kenya would like to appreciate SSNC for its support in ensuring the team had an opportunity to learn

and experience gender at the center of each initiative. These initiatives are not only gender-responsive but also transformative, as we experienced during a field visit with the Damasco Organic Farmers group.

Courtesy Visit to Pelum Regional Secretariat

PELUM Kenya visited the Regional Secretariat office in Kampala and was welcomed by the PELUM secretariat team led by Secretary General Mr. Hannington Owegi. The Secretariat is growing strong with several programs running now and the number of staff is as well increasing. He appreciated the coming together of the two PELUM Chapters of Kenya and Uganda to learn lessons from each other.

The SG emphasized that the initiative should be emulated also by the other PELUM chapters towards strengthening the PELUM Association whereby they are in different levels of growth and programmed execution. The regional secretariat also anticipates continuing in strengthening existing and recruiting new PELUM chapters such that the Association becomes continental.



PELUM Regional Secretariat team & PELUM Kenya team at PELUM Regional secretariat offices in Kampala Uganda

Women Economic empowerment for rural resilience, rights, Representation, & resources (WE4R)

PELUM Kenya is thrilled to implemented WE4R project which is addressing land injustices through building women capacity to access right rights, increase representation in decision making, access natural resources and build rural resilience. PELUM Kenya recognizes Women in rural areas are more vulnerable to climate change impacts, crises and disasters, as they often do not have the same rights as men, their access to resources is more limited and they are not represented to the same extent in decision-making processes. PELUM has been keen to amplify voices of grassroot women by building their capacity, enhancing their participation and eliminating barriers.

Women Empowerment for Rural Resilience (WE4R) project seeks to contribute to women's resilient, and transformation anchored on the 3 Rs (Rights, Resources, Representation) within the framework of the 3 Rio conventions which include UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), UNFCCC (United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change).

The WE4R project is implemented by PELUM Association in Eastern and Southern Africa, with her respective Country Chapters of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi from November 2024 – October 2026. This project (WE4R) is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through the Global Project "Women's Empowerment for Resilient Rural Areas". this project strategy is anchored on evidence that ensuring women's economic empowerment through the 3Rs is important for sustainable development. When women are empowered, they protect and defend their Rights, as well as amplify their voices for the rights of other women. The WE4R supports national and local key actors through capacity building, leadership training, organizational development and lobbying so that they can successfully advocate for women's 3Rs.

Promoting sustainable Agriculture through Youth exchange (PSAMY)

This is PELUM Kenya youth signature project which main goal is to increase youth participation in agroecology and agro-markets through youth exchange on knowledge, skills and giving them a platform to share knowledge with farmers. The project boasts of having success online and physical learning exchange with FACHIG Zimbabwe in year 2002-2023. The program kicked off with recruitment of 5 participants from PELUM Kenya Network and 5 Youths from FACHIG Zimbabwe. The participants from both countries dismantle various trainings to farmers and farmers were able to adopt the knowledge. The participants organized forums such as seeds fairs and farmer field days to show case agricultural activities, equipment and animals were exhibited publicly. In Zimbabwe, participation of smallholder farmers throughout the project cycle was mainly evident in Manhenga in all the wards where the farmers adopted different agroecological practices were evident leading to improved farming methods and building resilient food systems. The participants in Zimbabwe build synergies with the Agritex department (ministry of agriculture) to scale up the 'Pfumvudza' farming model which integrated well with sustainable agriculture farming practices from Kenya for example- fanya juu fanya chini model.

In addition, the participants in both countries the used digital space in the targeted farmer groups in both countries for Knowledge exchange using whatsapp platforms discussing agroecology practices contributed and opened discussions in responding to sustainable agriculture topics such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) application methods. The groups composed of participants and Agritex officers' technocrats managed to interpret and clarify on some of the advantages of using agroecology as compared to the synthetic farming methods. The PSAMY social platform group acted as an information dissemination tool where public education, knowledge and sustainable agricultural practices was shared within the group; updates and experiences of smallholder farmers were also shared on the platform.

In Kenya, the second cohort went beyond training farmers but supported the farmers groups who were new to sustainable agricultural practices for marketing purposes to set up kitchen gardens for the families which also provided extra food for sale in the markets. Also, the project inspired more youths to join the agricultural space and explore different pathways in the agribusiness value chain. This was evidenced during the farmers exposure visit in Baraka Agriculture College, as well as the international youth day commemorations in Kenya from 26th to 30th August 2024, where PSAMY participants joined fellow youths from the groups they

had trained who exhibited their products and shared experiences from the training and learnings. Farmers in Kenya have embraced youth engagement in sustainable agriculture and marketing. This has built trust between the old and young generations, reducing barriers of trust and access to land and market linkages and supporting youth in pursuing agriculture and agricultural marketing as a viable career and source of livelihood.

Involvement of the participants in regular PELUM Kenya trainings increased the knowledge gained by the participants in areas such as permaculture, monitoring, evaluation, carbon markets, agroforestry, advocacy, policy formulation, gender transformative approaches and agrotourism. These experiences enriched their skills and experience which will put them ahead in high-level discussions on agroecology and agribusiness conversation.

What next

Due to the knowledge and skills gained, the participants developed transition plans after the exchange program e.g., starting their own enterprises, giving back to farmers in their countries, etc.

The participants were excited to give back to the community as they trained farmers on agricultural marketing, sustainable agriculture and other experiences they had gained during the exchange program. The participants traversed many parts of Kenya, learnt to engage in conversations with the Swahili language and enjoyed local food which they really struggled with at the beginning of the exchange. The DNRC offered them opportunity to travel and learn during the DNRC annual training camp on Permaculture design. They visited GBIACK Organization, BIOGI, LPC and Olgori National Park in Laikipia County. The participants were equipped with other sustainable agriculture practices such as regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, permaculture, bio-intensive agriculture, organic farming among others. Enhanced synergies between PELUM Kenya and its member organizations as they hosted and mentored the participants during the exchange period as a way of promoting youth enagement in agriculture. The MOS who hosted PSAMY program include- CIFORD Kenya, INADES, DIG, EIPMA & ADS Western.

PSAMY Success Stories

In Zimbabwe, FACHIG collaborated with Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) by supporting the participants to attend the Agroecology seed and food fair in Harare. In this event, participants were exposed to different platforms both at district and national level where relevant skills and knowledge were shared. AFSA also sponsored two participants to participate in the youth agroecology seed and food event in Harare. In addition to this, the participants were exposed and networked with other Civil Society Organizations (CSO) s actors and youth organizations. These collaborations were key as participants were able to tap and learn on fellow youths' programs in agroecology. Also, attending the agricultural shows both at district and national level enlightened participants with a better understanding of agricultural production in Zimbabwe and ensured more collaborations with local government departments and various CSO actors.

In Kenya, there was enhanced collaboration between PELUM Kenya and its member organizations such as Baraka Agriculture College (BAC) to train the smallholder farmers groups being supported by the participants on high-value agriculture value chains such as agriculture, dairy farming and agroforestry. At Drylands Natural Resources Centre (DNRC), the PSAMY participants were trained on the Permaculture Design course and were exposed to other PELUM members in the country practicing permaculture to learn on how they manage successful permaculture agribusiness. One of the participants, based at CIFORD, also collaborated with the organization to train high school students during holidays on agro-business, permaculture, agroforestry and kitchen gardening.

There was also a great collaboration with the Inades Formation Kenya (IFK) whereby IFK supplied water pumps to 2 out of the 6 farmers groups trained by the PSAMY participant. Nyakach farmers group trained by one of the participants were also supported to set up a collective market for sweet potatoes in collaboration with Development in Gardening (DIG) & Community Rehabilitation Environmental Programme (CREPP) The participant hosted at Effective Integrated Pest Management Association (EIPMA) collaborated with PELUM Kenya zonal coordinator for Nairobi and Central Zone to train farmers on permaculture design and setting up vertical gardens. Also, one farmer group trained by the participant hosted at Anglican Development Services Western (ADSW) held a peer-to-peer learning with cooperative farmers from one group affiliated to Bio Gardening Innovations (BIOGI), a member of PELUM Kenya. The groups are currently reorganizing to form a sweet potatoes and Africa leafy vegetable cooperative.

Governance and social accountability for improved livelihood (GSAILI)

Governance and Social Accountability for Livelihoods Improvement (GSAILI) project aims at improving communities' livelihoods through enhanced governance and social accountability in water issues, agroforestry, climate justice, and governments budgets and plans. Few activities were implemented during this reporting period due to late disbursement of funds. The governance and Social Accountability for Livelihoods Improvement (G-SAILI) project aims to improve communities' livelihoods through enhanced governance and social accountability.

PELUM Kenya kicked off the project in July 2024, having advocacy, governance, and social accountability training for all partners, staff, board members and farmer representatives. The core partners and PELUM Kenya developed a joint work plan, which was implemented quarterly, and there were quarterly review meetings to review progress, gaps, lessons, and areas for improvement. PELUM Kenya conducted an advocacy capacity assessment for the core partners to assess where they were in terms of advocacy capacities, strengths, and gaps that need strengthening. The advocacy capacity assessment report findings were shared. They were key in guiding the core partners and PELUM Kenya as the technical partner in planning both short and long-term advocacy interventions. It was an opportunity to guide the core partners in their 2025 advocacy activities planning.

PELUM Kenya conducted budget analysis for Busia, Bungoma, Kilifi, Elegy Marakwet and Siaya county in partnership with farmer organizations to analysis budget analysis versus commitment in agriculture sector, water governance, agroforestry, and Climate change mitigation. The study shown counties have allocated budgets to the sectors but no specific allocation to farmers priority areas. The farmer led organization will actively participate in budget formulation process for 2025/2026 to ensure farmer priority areas take stage in the budget which include subsidies farm inputs/ services, increase number of extension agriculture services, timely consultation on farmer projects at county level and involvement in distribution of farm input offered by county and national government.

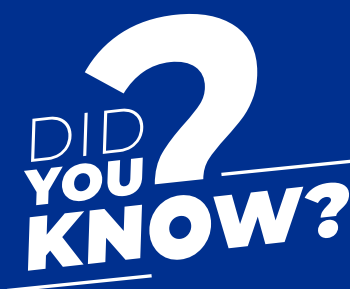
Further to this, PELUM Kenya supported farmer organization to participate in reviews of county Integrated Development Plans (CIPDs) and budget planning for the 2025/2026 fiscal year, policy reviews and project identification for key county and national government projects e.g., Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) program which supports Counties to manage climate change risks. We focused on capacity building and supporting partners engaging with their county

government on budget allocation versus commitment and planning for 2025. We finalized budget analysis for five counties where all core partners and other stakeholders participated in validating and disseminating the findings. The core partners had the opportunity to advocate and share their expectations, recommendations, and prayers with the economic planning & budget committee. We continued to build core partners' capacity on governance issues. In collaboration with core partners, we did 8 farmer-level civic education and the development of petitions and memorandums, which they are polishing to submit. We wrapped up the quarter with training on resource mobilization for advocacy work, where we saw 70% of core partners participating in the ongoing budget planning, identifying projects, and engaging different stakeholders for collaborations.

The engagement of youth and women in decision-making has increased to 78% from 51%. This has been attributed to capacity building on areas of meaningful public participation in the budget process, civic education at the farmer level and youth and women-specific events to contribute to policies, for example, the Right to Food Policy in Maranga, Vichuga county validation workshop, participation in 2025/2026 budget formulation, sharing petitions & memorandums on farmer priority issues to be considered in counties annual development plans and budgets. In addition, the youth and women have gained the opportunity to become committee members forward agricultural committees, county development committees and representatives of farmers at ward and county level. This has amplified their voices and ensured more youth and women have space in these forums and platforms.



Youths from Kilifi County during Kilifi County 2023/2024 budget analysis training at Kilifi Kenya Scouts Camp.



August is the International Youth month!

PELUM Kenya network hosted various forum across Kenya in partnership with MOS and like-minded organization to celebrate the work youths have doing in agroecology & promoting sustainable food systems as farmers, professionals, agro-business, consumers among others. The theme for 2024 youth month was from Clicks to progress, where it was recognizing critical role of technology in enhancing youth development outcome in all sectors including agriculture.

Youth In agrobusiness Learning track! YALTA Kenya is back

PELUM Kenya in partnership with SLOW Food Kenya, VI agroforestry and PELUM Kenya Member organizations, held a series of events to create awareness about technology in agroecology, agroforestry, and biodiversity preservation. The participants, mainly young men and women were enlightened and exposed to different technologies in different stages of agriculture value chains, agroforestry and technologies advancing biodiversity conservation. The government has devised different initiatives to promote the use and access of technology in agriculture. For example, reduced taxation on importing products is a way to build and advance innovation and technology in agriculture value chains.

PELUM Kenya hosted National youth Forum on agroecology focusing on Accelerating Digital Technology to Promote Meaningful Youth Engagement in Agribusiness, Agroforestry Value Chains and Agrotourism for Improved Livelihood and food security. As the main event theme to culminate activities of the international youth day and youth month. The International Youth Day is observed annually on August 12th & the whole month of August to recognize and amplify the voices of young people around the world and to address the challenges they face. In 2024, the theme is From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable development highlighting the vital role of youth in leveraging into technology to drive sustainable food systems, promote agroecology, advance in agribusiness and ensure the health of both people and the planet. PELUM Kenya & SLOW Food Kenya have hosted Youth Day events in Nakuru, County, Bungoma and Nairobi on 12th August 2024. The National Youth Forum will culminate the Youth month by bringing together 40 youths representing their counties and PELUM Kenya Members to learn, share ideas and develop action plans on meaningful youth engagement in accelerating technology and innovation Agribusiness, Agroecology, food security, Agroforestry and biodiversity conservation for improved youth livelihood.

The purpose of International Youth Day National Forum 2024 is to highlight the innovative contributions of young people to transforming food systems, hear the pain points in agroecology policy work, agro markets and open their mind to explore new agriculture value chains in agroforestry and Agrotourism. The participants engaged in a caravan to create awareness about the role of youth using innovations to enhance food security and create Agri related enterprise which are creating. The panel discussions focused on agrotourism & mapping new value chains in agroforestry workshop the participants were able to learn new value chains in agroforestry, which provide food, take care of biodiversity, and provide income opportunities to youths and women. They include apiculture, medicinal plants, tree nurseries, agrotourism, herbs, and spices. Some of the mentees have picked up the knowledge, and they have vertical gardens for producing spices and herbs.

The PELUM Association and her respective country chapters and partners of Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda Eswatini are implementing a project on Youth in Agroecology Business Learning Track Africa (YALTA) 2024-2027. The project is part of the Agroecology Partnership Programme (APP) funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SD) and continentally coordinated by Bio vision Foundation and Africa Trust (BVAT). The overall goal of program is that agroecology (inclusive to like-minded approaches) is promoted as a pathway for food systems transformation, to truly sustainable, resilient and dynamic food and farming systems.

The inception workshop held in the Nairobi City was attended by representatives from the 5 project implementing countries that is PELUM Uganda, PELUM Kenya, YALTA Rwanda, PELUM Ethiopia, PELUM Eswatini, the PELUM Association (Regional Secretariat) and BVAT. The inception workshop followed several virtual meetings carried out during the project pre-granting period and immediately after with the PELUM implementing partners, and other APP consortium members. The participation in the inception workshop was both physical and virtual, allowing participants from other PELUM countries as well. The main goal for YALTA is to increase business opportunities for youth in agroecology and improve their capacity to apply agroecology principles.

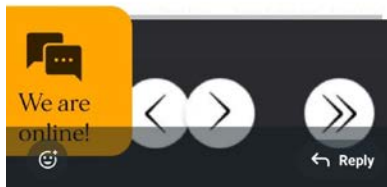
The forum opening remarks were by the Secretary General of the PELUM Association- Mr. Owegi Hannington who also welcomed participants, and their positive response exhibited since the project development phase. He emphasized the growing trajectory of promoting agroecology as a formidable solution to a broken food and agricultural system by PELUM and other partners. As such, he invited the participants, who are also the implementing partners to develop a positive and mounted perspective around the YALTA project. He shared a vision that perceives YALTA as a growing youth movement on the African continent in Agroecology, but with possibilities of reaching out to other continents-starting with Southeast Asia. The project will be upscaled and deepened in five countries that is Kenya, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda. In the respective countries, the PELUM Association will work hand in hand with the PELUM country chapters therein, and or with an identified partner where the PELUM country chapter is absent.

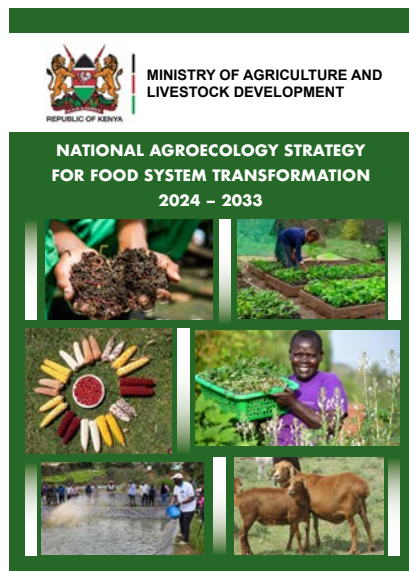
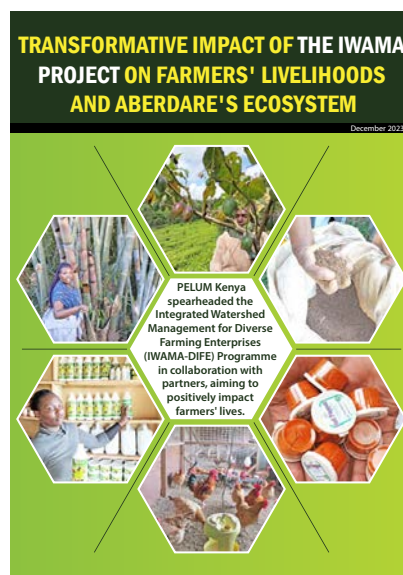
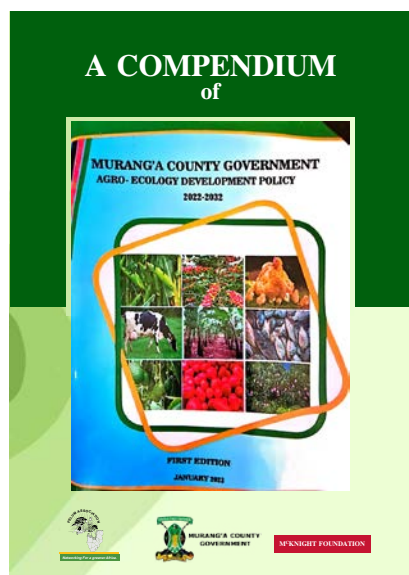
To achieve YALTA project objectives, several regional and national level activities were implemented. The activities included those aimed at (a) creating awareness; b) facilitating youth engagement such as policy dialogues

and conferences, summits, topic deep dives; (c) accelerating youth led businesses such as waste recycling, beekeeping, market-based businesses; (d) building skills to apply agroecology and peer learning through initiatives such as caravans, pilot gardens/organic farming, mentorship program, story map,

learning journeys, among others. Activity implementation was mostly customized according to each countries' participants interests. YALTA Program will use mentorship approach to build capacity of youths and link up them with market linkages. YALTA Kenya will recruit 250 mentees and 50 mentors.

PELUM Kenya's presence in the media





Support our Seeds!! Farmer Managed Seed Systems

29 views • 1 month ago

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



Why Support Farmer Managed Seed Systems?

67 views • 1 month ago

https://youtu.be/md3zOpZCSsM?si=JH6PYAeB_JLsJ6Lu

Financial Summary

SUMMARY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

	2024	2023
Income	KES	KES
Grants Received	196,181,195	239,210,305
PELUM - Kenya Income	3,170,726	1,062,282
Total Income	199,351,921	240,272,587
Expenditure		
Indirect Project Costs	9,657,839	10,016,363
PELUM - Kenya Administration Costs	3,679,738	4,046,994
Direct Project Expenditure	191,648,070	192,935,698
Total Expenditure	204,985,647	206,999,054
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(5,633,726)	33,273,533

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	2024 (12 Months)	2023 (12 Months)
Fund Balances	KES	KES
General funds	4,593,968	2,231,256
Capital fund	23,143,603	12,266,942
	27,737,571	14,498,198
Represented by		
Non-Current Assets		
Property and equipment	23,143,603	12,266,942
Current Assets	12,169,077	7,689,656
Accounts receivables	35,506,106	55,373,751
	47,675,183	63,063,407
Current Liabilities		
Restricted Funds	36,005,232	54,878,331
Accounts payable	7,075,983	5,953,820
Net Assets	43,081,216	60,832,151
Net Current Assets	4,593,968	2,231,256
Net Assets	27,737,571	14,498,198

PELUM Kenya Income

The total grants to PELUM Kenya in the financial year ended **31st December 2024**, decreased from Kes **240,272,587** in **2023** to Kes **199,351,921** in 2024, this being a **17.03%** decrease. This decrease can be attributed to the following:

1. There were 3 funding partners (GIZ, Global Green Grant and Action Aid) who funded in 2023 but the programmes ended. PELUM Kenya is still in touch with the partners and discussing on future partnership.
2. There were programmes which were ending thus reduction of funding within the year.
- There was however an addition of 4 new funding partners GLS ,Island Reach, APHRC and BIBA/AEF in 2024.

Summary of the 2024 verses 2023 income

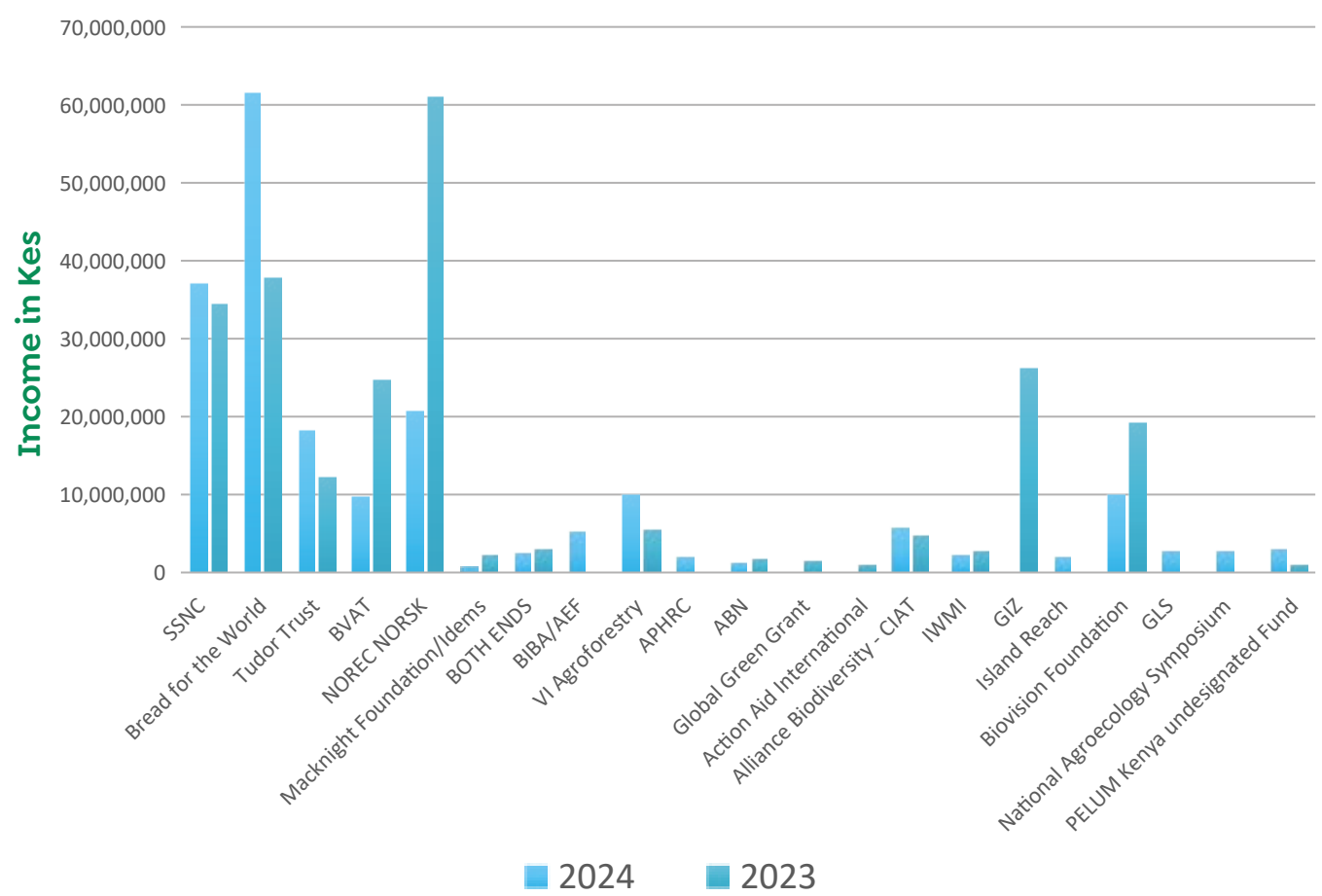
Funding Partner	2024		2023	
	KSh	Percentage	KSh	Percentage
SSNC	37,197,378	22.74	34,548,151	30.40
Bread for the World	61,719,450	37.73	37,908,631	33.36
Tudor Trust	18,251,378	11.16	12,363,585	10.88
BVAT	9,886,413	6.04	24,727,277	21.76
NOREC NORSK	20,878,216	12.76	61,324,473	53.96
Macknight Foundation/Idems	838,600	0.51	2,243,274	1.97
BOTH ENDS	2,654,677	1.62	3,121,487	2.75
BIBA/AEF	5,415,680	3.31		
VI Agroforestry	9,975,467	6.10	5,448,636	4.79
APHRC	1,975,471	1.21		-
ABN	1,419,000	0.87	1,738,139	
Global Green Grant	0	-	1,517,533	1.34
Action Aid International			1,000,000	
Alliance Biodiversity - CIAT	5,715,090	3.49	4,856,041	4.27
IWMI	2,443,480	1.49	2,812,943	2.48
GIZ	0	-	26,228,135	23.08
Island Reach	2,005,826	1.23	0	-
Biovision Foundation	10,133,000	6.19	19,372,000	17.05
GLS	2,845,919	1.74		
National Agroecology Symposium	2,826,150	1.73		
PELUM Kenya undesignated Fund	3,170,726	1.94	1,062,282	0.93
TOTAL	199,351,921		240,272,587	

The Actual Membership fees received during the year 2024 was Kes 821,700. This included registration fees for new members, 2024 annual membership fees and other prior year arrears.

During the year **2024 PELUM Kenya's** undesignated income was Kes **3,170.726** representing **1.94%** of the total income while in **2023** the undesignated income was

Kes **1,062,282**. The income is comprised of Member-ship fees, Coordination Income, and mileage recovery.

2024 VS 2023 INCOME

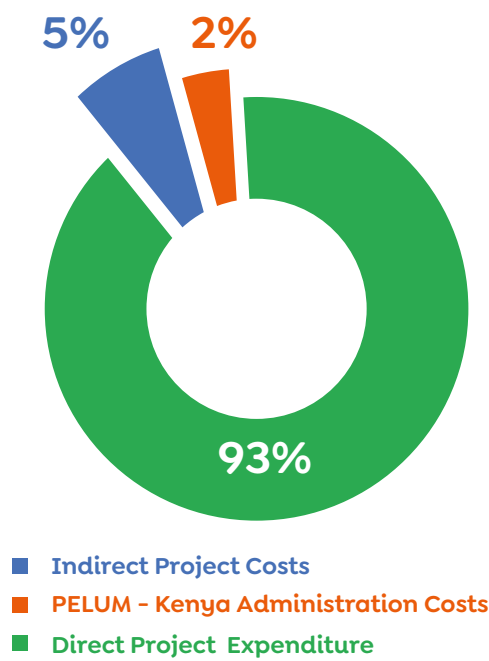


PELUM Kenya Expenditure

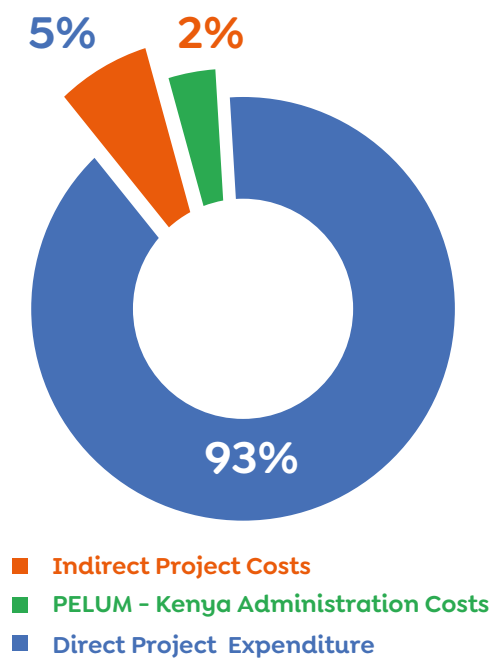
PELUM Kenya total expenditure in year 2024 was Kshs **204,985,647** as compared to year 2023's expenditure of Kes **206,999,055**. This is a **0.97%** decrease.

Expenditure	2024		2023	
	KSh	Percentage	KSh	Percentage
Indirect Project Costs	9,657,839	4.71	10,016,363	4.84
PELUM - Kenya Administration Costs	3,679,738	1.80	4,046,994	1.96
Direct Project Expenditure	191,648,070	93.49	192,935,698	93.21
Total Expenditure	204,985,647		206,999,055	

Expenditure 2024



Expenditure 2023



Assets amounting Kes **13,748,385** were procured during the year ended **31st December, 2024**. This included a vehicle, computers and furniture.



Networking for a greener Africa.

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