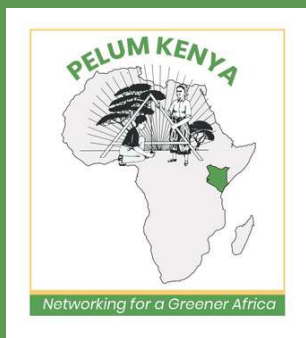




PELUM KENYA



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ISSUE 04 OCTOBER 2025



Rosinah Mbenya, Country Coordinator - PELUM Kenya reading the call to action during the 2nd National Agroecology Symposium

ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network with a membership of 69 member organizations promoting Agroecological principles and practices among smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya.

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

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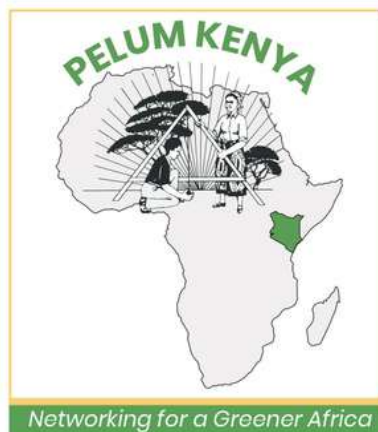
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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY COORDINATOR



By Rosinah Mbenya



Dear PELUM Kenya Members, Partners, Friends and Stakeholders,

As we conclude another vibrant quarter, I am inspired by the strides we continue to make in promoting agroecology and sustainable food systems across Kenya. Our collective commitment—driven by partnerships, innovation, and grassroots engagement—remains central to transforming our food systems and improving the livelihoods of farming communities.

One of the key highlights of this quarter was the 2nd National Agroecology Symposium, which brought together policymakers, researchers, farmers, and partners to reflect on Kenya's progress and chart pathways for scaling up agroecology. The event reaffirmed the growing recognition of agroecology as a viable solution for food security, climate resilience, and environmental restoration.

We also celebrate the launch of the Vihiga County Agroecology Policy, a landmark achievement that demonstrates how consistent advocacy and collaboration can translate into tangible policy outcomes. This milestone provides a strong foundation for integrating agroecological principles into county development plans.

At the grassroots level, initiatives such as water conservation training in Kilifi, seed and food fairs in Kakamega and Vihiga, and exchange visits in Makueni and Taita Taveta empowered farmers, youth, and women with practical skills for regenerative farming and local seed saving.

Regionally, our participation in the PELUM Association's 30th Anniversary Celebration in Eswatini reaffirmed our shared vision for climate justice, food sovereignty, and sustainable livelihoods across Africa. Together, we continue to regenerate landscapes, strengthen communities, and nurture hope for a sustainable future.

In solidarity,
Rosinah Mbenya
Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya

2nd National Agroecology Symposium



Photos from the 2nd National Agroecology Symposium

The 2nd National Agroecology Symposium served as a dynamic platform to catalyze transformative dialogue and action towards a more sustainable food systems transition in Kenya. Held from 10th to 11th July 2025 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies in Nairobi, the event brought together over 480 participants, including representatives from government, civil society organizations (CSOs), farmers, academia, students, and other key stakeholders. Under the theme: Scaling Up Agroecology Initiatives for Health, Resilience, and Economic Stability

The primary goal of the symposium was to position agroecology at the core of Kenya's agricultural and food systems transformation. This was achieved through inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement, strategic partnerships, and the exchange of innovative ideas and practices.

Key Focus Areas

The symposium sessions were organized around five critical thematic areas:

- **Policy, Governance, and Science Nexus:** Exploring the intersections between policy frameworks, scientific research, and governance to support Agroecological advancement.
- **Agroecological Practices for Climate Resilience, Soil Health, and Nutrition Security:** Showcasing practical solutions and success stories in building resilient food systems that restore soil and improve nutrition.
- **Finance, Investment, and Markets for Agroecology Transition:** Addressing financing mechanisms, investment opportunities, and market access to drive agroecological initiatives.
- **Inclusion, Social Equity, and Land Tenure:** Promoting equity, gender inclusivity, and secure land rights as enablers of sustainable food systems.
- **Digital Innovation for Agroecology:** Highlighting the role of technology and digital solutions in scaling up agroecological practices



PELUM KENYA AT THE DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE

DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025

**ACCELERATING AGROECOLOGY ADOPTION THROUGH DEVOLUTION:
ADVANCING INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY AND PEOPLE-CENTERED DEVELOPMENT**

ROOTED IN JUSTICE
Agroecology as a Catalyst for Transforming Kenya's Food Systems and Securing Human Dignity

14th August 2025 **11:00 AM To 01:00 PM**
Venue : Tent 5

Keynote Speakers :
Dr. David Amudavi, Executive Director, Devolution Africa Trust
Mr. David Ombalo, Deputy Director, Policy Unity, MALD

Panelists :
Derrick Ngugi, Youth Farmer Representative, Murang'a County
Mrs. Manei Naanyu, Head Of Programme, Pelum Kenya
Mr. David Gitahi, Director Linkages and Devolutions, Murang'a County Government

Moderator:
Dr. Martin Oulu, ISFAA Coordinator

Organized By:
Murang'a County in collaboration with PELUM Kenya and ISFAA

PELUM KENYA HOSTS HIGH-IMPACT SIDE EVENT AT THE DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE 2025

During the 2025 Devolution Conference, held under the theme "For the People, For Prosperity: Devolution as a Catalyst for Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice.", PELUM Kenya in collaboration with Murang'a County, and ISFAA successfully hosted a high-level side event aimed at elevating the role of agroecology in strengthening local food systems and enhancing county resilience.

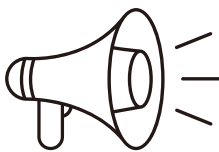
The side event, titled "ROOTED IN JUSTICE: AGROECOLOGY AS A CATALYST FOR TRANSFORMING KENYA'S FOOD SYSTEM AND SECURITY HUMAN DIGNITY

", brought together a diverse group of participants including county government officials, farmers, civil society representatives, researchers, youth, and development partners. The session provided a vibrant platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collective strategizing on how devolved governance can support the transition to sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems in Kenya.

Key Objectives of the Side Event:

- To showcase county-level agroecology success stories and best practices.
- To promote inclusive stakeholder engagement particularly involving youth and women in local food systems planning.
- To foster collaboration between county governments and civil society in scaling agroecological initiatives.

PELUM Kenya's Call to Action



- Recognize agroecology as a key driver for food and nutrition security, climate resilience, and rural livelihoods..
- Establish participatory frameworks to ensure the voices of farmers, youth, and marginalized groups are central in local policy formulation.

HIGHLIGHT

- Key note presentation, delivered by Dr. David Amudavi, Executive Director FOR BVAT and Eng.. Alice Nyaga, from Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
- Panel Discussions: Insightful exchanges from that emphasized the urgent need for counties to integrate agroecological approaches into food, nutrition, climate, and economic strategies. The panelist were, Ms. Manei Naanyu PELUM Kenya Head of Programmes, Mr. Daniel Gitahi from Murang'a County, Mr. Derrick Ngigi, a youth Farmers and Moderated by Mr. Martin Oulu, ISFAA, Coordinator.

THE LAUNCH OF VIHIGA AGROECOLOGY POLICY



Vihiga County Launched Agroecology Policy, marking a significant step forward in advancing sustainable food systems. This milestone came at a crucial time as local farmers increasingly grapple with the impacts of climate change, soil degradation, and food insecurity. The policy offers a clear framework to support sustainable, community-driven agricultural solutions tailored to the county's needs.

The policy was developed through a collaborative process between the County Government and key stakeholders, spearheaded by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya and the Alliance for Agroecology, with financial support from the Biovision Foundation. Contributing partners included the Seed Savers Network, the Intersectoral Forum on Agroecology and Agrobiodiversity (ISFAA), Biogardening Innovations, and Rural Outreach Africa, among others.

TRANSZOIA COUNTY BENCHMARKING VISIT TO MURANG'A COUNTY ON AGROECOLOGY

As Transzoia County embarks on the formulation of agroecology policy, officials and stakeholders from Transzoia County recently undertook a benchmarking visit to Murang'a County to learn from its successful agroecology initiatives. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices aimed at promoting sustainable food systems.

Murang'a County, known for its progressive agroecology programs, showcased practical approaches in climate-resilient farming, soil conservation, biodiversity management, and community engagement. Participants from Transzoia engaged with farmers, county officials, and implementing partners to gain insights into policy frameworks, implementation strategies, and monitoring mechanisms that support agroecology at the grassroots level.

The visit is part of Transzoia County's commitment to integrating agroecological principles into its agricultural development plans, with the goal of enhancing food security, improving livelihoods, and building climate resilience among local farmers.



2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)



PELUM Kenya successfully held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 9th July 2025 at Rainbow Hotel, Ruiru, bringing together 52 delegates from across the country. Among the key highlights was the welcoming of six new member organizations into the PELUM Kenya network: *EQUAL Foundation (Laikipia)*, *3000T (Rongai)*, *MID-P (Isiolo)*, *Holy Ghost Fathers Marafa Parish (Coast Region)*, *Institute of Participatory Development (Malindi)*, and *the Center for Research and Development in Drylands (Marsabit)*. The meeting also saw the re-election of Mr. John Kariuki, CEO of Slow Food Kenya, as Vice Board Member for a second term, representing the Rift Valley and Western Region Zone.

In addition, PELUM Kenya hosted the Agroecology Symposium and Exhibition from 14th to 15th October 2025 at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, featuring 48 exhibitors who were assessed by six adjudicators based on presentation, linkage with agroecology, innovation, and knowledge of their work. The event recognized outstanding exhibitors across three categories: Agroecology Diversity and Integration (1st – SMART Initiative, 2nd – GBIK, 3rd – RIDE), Innovation and Value Addition (1st – Groove and Meadow, 2nd – KOAN, 3rd – OAK Kenya), and Outreach and Coverage (1st – ADS Western, 2nd – Slow Food Kenya, 3rd – Manor House). The symposium highlighted the growing commitment to agroecological transformation and innovation among PELUM Kenya's network members.

STAKEHOLDERS MEETING AND EXCHANGE VISIT FOR LAIKIPIA TO THARAKA/MERU, APHRC

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with APHRC under Vibilize4Climate Action Project, organized for an exchange learning visit for farmers, pastoralists, members organization extension officers and policy makers from within Laikipia and Tharaka Nithi Counties. The delegation toured agroecology demonstration farms managed by member organization of PELUM Kenya including RIDE, LPC, SAPAD, and Meru Herbs.

The visit provided a valuable learning platform for participants to explore agroecology foster peer learning and strengthening partnerships for climate-resilient livelihoods promoting strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation and enhancing food security and promoting nutrition. This initiative showcased practical examples of sustainable farming and underscored the growing momentum towards climate-smart agriculture in the region.



The Country Coordinator and Programme Officer (Advocacy) participated in the UNFSS+4 summit and a side event by the Agroecology Coalition, where she presented on the role of non-state actors in shaping Kenya's agroecology strategy for food system transformation. The summit, attended by African Heads of State including Kenya's President who highlighted five priorities for Kenya in strengthening food systems: stronger governance, effective policies, investment in research and technology, inclusion of women and youth, and climate investment/finance for farmers.

The summit underscored the urgency of transforming food systems through integrated approaches, inclusive governance, science, technology, and targeted finance. Key themes included youth empowerment, evidence-based policymaking, financial flows, climate-aligned strategies, and accountability. Persistent challenges noted were global hunger trends and the need for increased support to smallholder farmers, women, and youth.

MAKUENI COUNTY AGROECOLOGY TRAINING FOR EXTENSION STAFF

PELUM Kenya, with support from partners, trained 34 Makueni County agricultural extension officers at the Dryland Natural Resource Centre to enhance their capacity in promoting agroecological farming. The training combined theory and hands-on practice, covering soil health, composting, regenerative farming, crop diversification, and integrated pest management. Participants learned how to prepare organic inputs such as Bokashi, compost, and bio-stimulants, and explored agroforestry and organic animal husbandry practices. The workshop positioned extension officers as future trainers to drive the county's soon-to-be-launched Agroecology Policy, empowering them to champion sustainable, low-cost, and climate-resilient farming practices.



NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON INTRA EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY (EAC) TRADE ON AGROECOLOGY PRODUCE



Group photo of the delegates in the National Multi-Stakeholder meeting on Intra East Africa Community (EAC) Trade on Agroecology Produce on 27th August 2025 at Vicmark Hotel, Nakuru



Group photo of the delegates during the field visit to Njoro Earth Market to meet Agroecology Traders as part of the National Multi-Stakeholder meeting on Intra East Africa Community (EAC) Trade on Agroecology Produce on 26th August 2025

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with Alliance for food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) organized for a National Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on Cross Border Trade in Agroecological Produce on 26th and 27th August, 2025. The event brought 59 stakeholders from National and County Government representatives/Policy makers, Cross-border trade association and Certification Bodies. Agroecological producers/ Farmer self-help groups and cooperative, Agroecology Development Partners in Kenya, Trade and transport associations, Representatives from NGOs and civil society organizations, Government officials from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and the County Departments of Trade and Agriculture, Trading groups and market representatives and Media Journalists

The meeting created an opportunity to:

1. Share insights on operational realities of Agroecological trade in Kenya and impacts of trade policies on the ground.
2. Developed action plan with recommendations for scaling up export of Agroecological products in Kenya.
3. Identified policies and practices at national level to support cross border trade of Agroecological products.



Key issues identified

1. **Market access:** Local consumers often struggle to differentiate between organic and agroecological products, which affects pricing and trust in the market.
2. **Knowledge management and dissemination:** Many people lack awareness of agroecology or perceive it as complex and time-consuming.
3. **Cost of production:** The cost of production, particularly land and water, has been rising, worsened by the impacts of climate change.
4. **Support from the government and institutions:** Responding to a question on the role of government, Mr. Mwangi highlighted that support mainly comes in the form of training, networking opportunities, and market space allocation.

Media links



Empowering Youth in Agroecology: YALTA Inception Meetings Spark Growth Across Kenya



From June 25th to 27th, 2025, PELUM Kenya successfully hosted four vibrant YALTA (Youth in Agroecology and Business Learning Track Africa) inception meetings across PELUM Kenya's four zones. The sessions brought together 218 youth mentees and 36 mentors, creating a dynamic space for mentorship, networking, and innovation in agroecology and agribusiness.

The meetings featured hands-on training in agro-enterprise development, value addition, and market linkages while fostering strong mentor-mentee relationships. Youth participants left with clear business roadmaps, improved goal clarity, and renewed energy to grow their ventures, paving the way for a thriving youth-led agroecology ecosystem in Kenya.



Inception meeting for Lower Eastern and Coast Zone



Inception meeting for Rift Western Kenya Zone



Inception meeting for Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone

Building Youth-Led Agroecology for Climate-Resilient Communities



PSAMY participants join fellow international students in a hands-on outdoor permaculture training session



A PSAMY participant trains a local farmer group on sustainable agroecology practices, empowering communities with knowledge to improve productivity and resilience.

PELUM Kenya, through its Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Marketing through Youth Involvement (PSAMY) project, continues to drive transformative change in rural communities. In partnership with NOREC and FACHIG Zimbabwe, PSAMY participants have successfully conducted 201 farmer group trainings across Kenya, equipping farmers with skills in sustainable production, financial literacy, market participation, poultry production, and organic farming. These efforts have inspired innovation, with farmers venturing into value-added enterprises such as African Leaf Vegetables, banana crisps, yogurt, dried herbs, and instant coffee. Farmer exchange visits and demonstration farms have amplified peer-to-peer learning, while the Training of Trainers (ToT) model ensures knowledge continues to spread and grow within communities.

As part of strengthening youth leadership in agroecology, PSAMY participants attended the Permaculture Design/Agroecology Course 2025 at the Dryland Natural Resource Center (DNRC). The month-long training equipped participants with hands-on skills in soil health management, composting, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable farm design. Practical sessions included bio-fertilizer production, farm mapping, eco-site visits, and storytelling exchanges, deepening their understanding of environmentally friendly practices. This experience reinforced the role of youth as change agents in combating climate change and promoting food systems that prioritize people, planet, and prosperity.

International Youth Day 2025: Youth Driving Local Actions for Global Impact

On August 12th–13th, 2025, PELUM Kenya, through the YALTA Program, brought together over 400 diverse participants at Machakos University and Tea Tot Hotel, Machakos County, to commemorate International Youth Day 2025 under the global theme, “Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond.”

The two-day event created a vibrant platform for youth entrepreneurs, mentors, government representatives, development partners, banks, CSOs, CBOs, and the media to connect, exchange ideas, and inspire transformative action for sustainable development.

Key highlights included youth exhibitions showcasing innovative agroecological value chain products, panel discussions on youth finance and policy advocacy, and training sessions on business certification and funding opportunities. Participants also took part in farm exchange visits, gaining hands-on skills in organic chicken farming, fruit tree cultivation, and sustainable crop production.

The celebrations also featured music, sports, and art, promoting holistic growth while showcasing the diverse talents of youth. Reflections from participants and mentors emphasized the critical role of young people in driving agroecology, entrepreneurship, and sustainable community development.



Youth participants proudly hold a banner during the International Youth Day 2025 celebrations in Machakos County, showcasing their unity and commitment to driving local actions for the SDGs and beyond.

Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2) opened on September 8, 2025, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with a strong call for a paradigm shift away from dependence on aid towards leveraging investment for African-led climate solutions. The summit, themed "Accelerating Global Climate Solutions: Financing for Africa's Resilient and Green Development," aims to unite the continent's position ahead of the COP30 climate talks

PELUM Kenya was represented by Jeff Kahuho, Senior Programme Officer (Capacity Enhancement, Climate Change & NRM) and Bathseba Ratemo Programme Officer (Knowledge Hub, Markets & Communications). Mr. Jeff represented PELUM Kenya as a panellist in a Side Event by World Animal Protection with the theme "Transition in Agriculture and Food Systems: Roadmaps & Perspectives". He emphasised research and market development in his territory. For a consistent supply of Agroecological products, let's focus on farmers' issues by capacity building farmers on water harvesting technologies, as well as Capacity building and PGS Certification.

PELUM Kenya hosted a side event on Advancing Climate Justice through Agroecology. We will be having a keynote presentation from Josephine Akia, Country Coordinator- PELUM Uganda. She highlighted on the work of PELUM Uganda Secretariat's experiences from the CRAEM Model on centering Indigenous Knowledge, Women's Leadership, Policy Action and People's Caravans

The key points emphasized from the panel discussion were:

1. There is a need for financing Research in Agroecology to maintain momentum
2. Agroecology policies and strategies are a step towards Government financing of Agroecology interventions
3. Farmers need to be involved in policy formulation and budgeting especially for Agroecology
4. Agroecology is a means towards Climate Justice, especially for women and youth. Legal & policy framework is needed to ensure they take space



AFSA
ALLIANCE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN AFRICA

PELUM KENYA

AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT 2
8-10 September 2025
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

SIDE EVENT

ADVANCING CLIMATE JUSTICE THROUGH AGROECOLOGY

CENTERING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, POLICY ACTION, AND PEOPLE'S CARAVANS

**9 SEPTEMBER 2025
9.30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Agriculture and Food Systems Pavilion by AFSA

MODERATOR
Jeff Kahuho
Senior Programme Officer, PELUM Kenya

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Josephine Akia
Country Coordinator, PELUM Uganda

PANELIST
Salome Oweinda
Executive Director, Africa Centre for Sustainable and Inclusive Development

PANELIST
Jude Ndlovu
Head of Programmes, PELUM Uganda

PANELIST
Ngunjiri Ndahohi
Country Coordinator, Young Women's for the Environment (YWE) Kenya

PANELIST
Annes Ratemo
Programme Officer, Knowledge Hub, Markets & Communications, PELUM Kenya

FOR INQUIRIES: WhatsApp +254704787800
Email: events@pelumkenya.net

ACS 2
8-10 September 2025
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

We invite you to our Side Event at the Africa Climate Summit 2

Theme
Transition in Agriculture and Food Systems: Roundmaps & perspectives

Date: Monday 8th September
Time: 3:30pm to 5:00pm
Venue: Food and Agriculture Pavilion

Panelists

Mr. Mamoudou Barry
Executive Director, Action Solidaire International

Bridget Mugambe
Programme Coordinator, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa

Philippe Akue-Aboose
Communications Manager, Climate Issues Officer - YVE Togo

Sally Kahuho
External Affairs Lead, World Animal Protection

Geoffrey Kahuho
Senior Programme Officer, Climate Change, PELUM Kenya

Anne Maino
National Coordinator, SIBA Kenya

PELUM Kenya Joins PELUM @30 Celebrations in Eswatini



PELUM Kenya joined the PELUM Regional Association and other country chapters in celebrating 30 years of the PELUM Association’s existence during a landmark event held in Eswatini from 23rd to 25th September 2025. The celebration, themed “Agroecology for Resilient Food Systems and Climate Justice,” also marked PELUM Eswatini’s 10th Anniversary, bringing together members, partners, and stakeholders from across Africa.

Representing PELUM Kenya, Janet Mumo, Board Chairperson, and Jeff Kahuho, Senior Programme Officer, participated in a high-level panel discussion on Agroecology for Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Change Justice. Their contributions highlighted Kenya’s ongoing commitment to promoting agroecological transformation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods within farming communities.

The event served as a powerful reflection of PELUM’s 30-year journey of advancing participatory ecological land use management across Africa. It also strengthened collaboration and shared learning among chapters working to build resilient, just, and sustainable food systems for the future.



Empowering Youth Through Market Linkages, Exhibitions, and Aquaculture Innovation



PELUM Kenya-YALTA youths participating in the Bungoma Agricultural Show



YALTA mentees proudly showcase innovative agroecological products at the Sokoni Agri-Business Expo in Nairobi

PELUM Kenya continues to champion youth participation in sustainable agriculture by creating opportunities for young entrepreneurs to learn, showcase, and grow their agribusiness ventures. In recent months, PELUM Kenya supported youth mentors and mentees to actively engage in three impactful platforms: the Samaki Insurance Training in Kisumu, the Sokoni Agri-Business Expo (2nd Edition) in Nairobi, and the Bungoma Agricultural Show in Western Kenya.

In Kisumu, sixteen youth aquaculture entrepreneurs from Western, Nyanza, and Rift Valley regions took part in the Samaki Insurance Training. The highly interactive session, organized in collaboration with GA Insurance, financial institutions, and government partners, equipped participants with essential knowledge on fish cage farming, aquaculture risk management, and insurance solutions to safeguard their investments. Youth also explored financing opportunities and innovative strategies to address challenges such as fish mortality, pollution, and market fluctuations. This training not only strengthened their technical know-how but also inspired them to view aquaculture as a profitable and resilient agribusiness, playing a critical role in boosting food security and rural livelihoods.

In Nairobi, PELUM Kenya supported its youth mentors and mentees to exhibit value-added agroecological products at the Sokoni Agri-Business Expo. Over 250–300 visitors engaged with PELUM Kenya's vibrant stand, where five member organizations showcased products such as organic herbs, roasted peanuts, and banana bites. The event attracted policymakers, investors, distributors, and consumers, creating powerful networking, mentorship, and business-to-business (B2B) opportunities. This exposure not only increased the visibility of youth-led businesses but also strengthened market linkages and opened doors for long-term collaborations, underlining the rising demand for organic and eco-friendly products in Kenya.

In Western Kenya, PELUM Kenya supported seven young agripreneurs to participate in the Bungoma Agricultural Show, a premier regional platform for innovation and knowledge sharing. Here, the youth showcased their agroecological innovations, learned from industry experts, and connected with potential buyers and partners. Their participation demonstrated how youth engagement in agriculture is key to driving innovation and scaling sustainable practices, especially in rural communities.

Launch of the Building Women- & Youth-led Network Alliances for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture (WYNA) Programme



Group photo of Consortium partners: Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD), African Green Store Network (AGSN) & Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya

The Building Women- & Youth-led Network Alliances for Agroecology and Organic Agriculture (WYNA Programme) is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through YPARD. From 15th to 17th September 2025, the programme held a key activity at Jero Farm, Uganda, bringing together stakeholders, partners, KCOA partners, AWOLA & YALTA Mentors and agroecology stakeholders from across Africa and beyond. The activity sought to strengthen women and youth leadership in agroecology and organic agriculture, foster collaboration, and create green jobs and market opportunities through sustainable farming practices. It also aimed to build strong alliances and networks that amplify the role of women and youth in Africa's agrifood systems.

The WYNA Programme was officially launched in a hybrid event that included keynote addresses, success stories from agroecology fellows, and a symbolic signing ceremony. During the hybrid launch, we had 47 registrations to the Digital Knowledge Platform after the presentations and emphasis by speakers on why joining the platform is important. The platform connects over 1,000 multipliers across Africa, with multipliers/users accessing over 1,300 knowledge products, success stories/blog stories across Africa and upcoming events.



Participants being taken round Jero Farm.



National Consultative Meeting on Agroecology for Climate Action – Nairobi (August 28, 2025)

PELUM Kenya in collaboration with RESCOPE Kenya and BIBA Kenya convened a National Consultative Meeting in Nairobi to advance agroecology as a climate action pathway, bringing together 30 stakeholders including farmers, civil society actors, researchers, policymakers, and academia. The forum discussed the urgent role of agroecology in addressing climate change, food insecurity, and declining agricultural productivity. Participants emphasized scaling agroecological practices, aligning climate finance with agroecology, and strengthening integration into national frameworks such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and county-level policies.

Key highlights included a presentation on Kenya's efforts to mainstream agroecology within Vision 2030, the NDCs, and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), alongside regional perspectives from the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), stressing Africa's shift from negotiations to tangible grassroots implementation. Civil society organizations (CSOs) underscored their role in advocacy, community mobilization, and bridging policy-practice gaps while highlighting the need for credible data, coordination, and sustainable financing.

The meeting generated strategic recommendations: policy integration, evidence generation, financing, institutional capacity strengthening, and improved communication. A field visit to Murang'a demonstrated practical agroecological practices such as agroforestry, organic inputs, water harvesting, and value addition, showcasing their potential for resilience, productivity, and income generation. The consultative forum concluded with a strong call for collaborative action to mainstream agroecology as a core solution for climate resilience, food sovereignty, and sustainable development in Kenya.



Stakeholders Unite in Nanyuki to Tackle Desertification and Drought Ahead of UNCCD COP17

PELUM Kenya took an important step in advancing the fight against desertification and drought with the Preparatory National Desertification Workshop, held in Nanyuki from 16th to 18th September 2025. The three-day workshop brought together key stakeholders to gather views, evidence, and experiences aimed at shaping Kenya's position ahead of the upcoming UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia and Désertif'actions 2026 in Tunisia. Held under the theme "Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Combating Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought in Kenya," the forum provided a vital platform for dialogue, learning, and joint planning. It sought to build a legitimate, participatory, and inclusive foundation for influencing public decision-making on drought management and sustainable land use.



The workshop attracted 40 participants, representing the Ministry of Agriculture, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the Ministry of Environment, county governments, scientists, farmers, civil society organizations, and academia. Together, they explored strategies for addressing the persistent challenges facing arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), where communities continue to bear the brunt of land degradation and climate-related shocks.

As part of the program, participants visited the Laikipia Permaculture Centre, where they were exposed to practical demonstrations of dryland farming techniques and climate adaptation technologies being applied by local communities in the ASAL regions. The visit provided a hands-on learning experience on sustainable practices that promote land restoration, food security, and resilience to drought. The workshop was organized through a collaborative effort between PELUM Kenya, GIZ, CARI, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The partners reaffirmed their commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue and strengthening civil society participation in shaping Kenya's environmental and land management agenda.

As Kenya prepares for its participation in the global desertification and climate forums, the outcomes of this workshop will play a crucial role in ensuring that the voices of local communities and civil society are heard in international decision-making spaces.



Namaiyana Women Group Leads Tree Planting Drive in Kotolian



The Namaiyana Women Group, a dedicated community association known for championing environmental conservation, continues to make a remarkable impact through its ongoing efforts in establishing indigenous tree nurseries and promoting tree planting in local schools.

On 29th May 2025, the group partnered with Paran Farmers and PELUM Kenya in an inspiring tree planting exercise at Kotolian Secondary School. Together, they planted 500 indigenous trees and 30 fruit trees, reinforcing the importance of restoring local ecosystems while supporting sustainable livelihoods within the community.

This initiative not only contributes to reforestation and climate resilience but also serves as a powerful example of how community-led actions, especially by women’s groups, can drive lasting environmental change

Building Resilience Through Water Conservation Training in Kilifi County

Farmers in Kilifi County continue to face significant challenges due to unreliable water supply and dependence on rainfed agriculture. To address this, PELUM Kenya organized a technical training on water conservation and management on 12th June 2025, bringing together core partners and local farmers for a hands-on learning session.

The training focused on practical and sustainable techniques that can help farmers conserve water, improve soil health, and enhance productivity even in dry conditions. Among the key methods demonstrated were the construction of water pans to harvest surface run-off, mandala beds, swales, mulching, and zai pits (tumbukiza).

Through these approaches, farmers are now better equipped to adapt to changing climatic conditions and ensure consistent food production throughout the year. The session reinforced the importance of community-driven water management as a key step toward climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in Kilifi County.



Advancing Agroecology and Sustainable Farming



A visit to Peter Ngwatu's Farm, who has reclaimed a gully and made it an Oasis producing fodder, sweet potatoes, Cassava and bananas all year round.

PELUM Kenya continues to strengthen its commitment to regenerative and organic farming by promoting sustainable practices and farmer-to-farmer learning across the country.

On May 21, 2025, PELUM Kenya hosted the Organic Farmers Cultural Day in Kajiado County, bringing together farmers, youth, and policymakers to celebrate traditional farming wisdom and sustainable agriculture. The event featured lively exhibitions and knowledge-sharing sessions on indigenous seed saving, organic soil management, and climate-resilient practices, highlighting the vital role of culture in ecological farming.

In June, an exchange visit in Mbooni, Makueni County offered 48 farmers hands-on learning experiences in water conservation and landscape restoration. Participants witnessed impressive examples of gully rehabilitation and road runoff harvesting, showcasing practical solutions to combat land degradation.

Furthering its mission, PELUM Kenya held a three-day training in Taita Taveta County from July 15–17, 2025, focused on establishing agroecological demonstration sites and forming collective marketing associations. These initiatives aim to empower farmers to adopt agroecological practices while strengthening their market linkages and economic resilience.

Together, these efforts reflect PELUM Kenya's ongoing drive to build sustainable food systems rooted in local knowledge, ecological balance, and community empowerment.

International Youth Day Celebrations in Machakos

PELUM Kenya, through the Youth in Agroecology Learning Track Africa (YALTA) Program, successfully organized a vibrant two-day workshop in Machakos Town from 12th to 13th August 2025 to commemorate International Youth Day. This year's celebration was held under the global theme, "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond."

The event brought together youth mentees, mentors, entrepreneurs, and agroecology and civic education experts—all united by a shared commitment to advancing youth engagement in agroecology and sustainable development. The workshop provided a dynamic platform for learning, sharing, and collaboration, emphasizing the power of youth-driven solutions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The two-day celebration featured several key activities:

- 1. Panel Discussions** – Youth and experts engaged in insightful discussions on opportunities in agroecology, policy and advocacy, and access to financial resources within both public and private sectors.
- 2. Youth Exhibitions** – Young innovators showcased agroecological products and business models, highlighting their creativity and entrepreneurship in promoting sustainable food systems.
- 3. Farm Exposure Visits** – Participants gained hands-on experience and practical insights into sustainable farming practices, bridging the gap between theory and field application.
- 4. Training Sessions** – Interactive sessions focused on compliance, certification, and financial opportunities along the agroecology value chain, equipping youth with essential knowledge for business growth and sustainability.
- 5. Peace Walk to Machakos University** – The youth led a public awareness walk promoting agroecology, climate justice, and the 17 SDGs, amplifying the importance of youth voices in advocacy and community action.
- 6. Sports, Art, and Music** – The event culminated in vibrant cultural and creative showcases, celebrating youth expression as powerful tools for social transformation and environmental advocacy.



Youth procession during the celebration of International Youth Day in Machakos

Urgent Need to Save Lake Ol' Bolossat

APELUM Kenya successfully organized to address the ecological degradation of Lake Ol' Bolossat, Central Kenya's only natural lake and Kenya's 7th Ramsar site. Held at the lake's shores, the forums served as a crucial platform for dialogue between government departments, community members, and local stakeholders. The forums brought together 42 participants (22 male, 18 female), including 22 youth, representing a cross-section of the community—farmers, fishermen, tour guides, and county officials from departments such as NEMA, Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife.

Discussions focused on the alarming environmental decline of Lake Ol' Bolossat, which is rapidly shrinking due to unsustainable water use, environmental degradation, and climate change. This has led to biodiversity loss, economic hardship, and disruption of the Ewaso Nyiro River water supply—a vital resource for the region. The activity emphasized the urgency of collective action to restore and conserve the lake, underlining the role of local communities and inter-agency collaboration in sustainable resource management.



Joleen from SACDEP addressing the participants at Lake Olorosot Nyandarua County



event at the shore of Lake Olorosot Nyandarua County

Meeting with youth and women to raise awareness on available funding opportunities

On May 23, 2025, Youth Action for Rural Development (YARD), in partnership with PELUM Kenya and with support from SSNC/BROT under the PENELI IV project, held a zonal awareness forum at their Gatanga offices in Murang'a County. The event targeted women and youth from Murang'a and Kiambu counties, aiming to raise awareness on available funding and business opportunities. Representatives from Women Enterprise Fund, Youth Fund, and Dua Njema SACCO engaged 20 participants in sessions on financial literacy, loan access, group formation, and government procurement opportunities. The forum was impactful, with seven participants registering with Dua Njema SACCO. Key lessons included the need for increased financial education among youth and broader representation from funding institutions in future forums



Participants during the meeting



Munyi Edwin from women fund

Empowering Youth & Women Through Agribusiness and Financial Literacy in Kiambu County

On July 23–24, 2025, PELUM Kenya and Girl Child Network, with support from SSNC/BROT, conducted a two-day training in Thika, Kiambu County targeting youth and women. The training aimed to empower participants to form Community Saving and Loaning groups (COSALO/VSLA) and connect with microfinance institutions. Day one focused on rabbit farming, covering key areas like breeds, feeding, housing, and marketing, while day two addressed financial literacy, budgeting, saving, loan management, and entrepreneurship. A total of 35 participants attended, with youth making up 54%. Following the training, 18 rabbit hutches were constructed, and 7 does were distributed to participants as a startup package. The program highlighted strong interest in agribusiness and a need for continued financial education and mentorship.



David from Rabbit Crew demonstrating on way of handling and slaughtering Rabbit during the training

Empowering Farmers Through Agroecology Demo Establishment

On 15th September 2025, an impactful three-day agroecology workshop was conducted in Kiwara, Kieni (Nyeri County). The training brought together 45 participants including lead farmers, stakeholders, and CARE Murang'a staff, with the goal of building capacity in sustainable, eco-friendly farming practices.

Organized by CARE Murang'a, the workshop featured both theoretical and practical sessions, culminating in the creation of a model demonstration garden. Participants were equipped with practical skills in composting, water retention techniques, natural pest control, and farm design using methods such as Zai pits, sunken and raised beds. Farmer groups like Upendo and Wendani, alongside partners such as PELUM Kenya, RIDEP, Green World, and Biashara Sacco, actively participated in discussions and hands-on activities.

The training received positive feedback, with 90% of participants' expectations met. It highlighted the growing interest in agroecology, though challenges such as time limitations and scarcity of some materials were noted. As a way forward, CARE Murang'a plans to continue enhancing the demo garden, engage more partners, and possibly host agroecology students for field training. The event marked a crucial step toward promoting sustainable agriculture in the region.



Exposure Visit Promotes Agroecological Learning in Kiambu County

On 26th September 2025, PELUM Kenya's Nairobi and Central Zone organized a successful exposure visit to the Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP) in Ndeiya, Kiambu County. This event brought together 39 participants, including member organization staff, lead farmers, and county government officials, under the PENELI IV project supported by SSNC/BROT.

The visit provided a hands-on learning experience in agroecological and organic farming, showcasing practical applications such as seed banking, biogas systems, organic input preparation, and solar drying. Participants also explored CSHEP's community seed bank, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), and value addition initiatives.

A highlight of the day was visiting two local farmers who have successfully replicated CSHEP's practices, establishing their own seed banks and forming a local seed-saving network. Participants shared experiences and deepened their understanding of sustainable agriculture, with many purchasing seeds and herbal products.

Despite weather-related challenges and time constraints, the visit achieved its objective of strengthening collaboration among farmers, civil society, and policy-makers to advance sustainable food systems. The event emphasized the need for continued engagement, especially from government officers, to support policy development rooted in grassroots agroecological practices



Githunguri Launches Organic Farmers Market to Boost Agroecological Trade and Food Security

On 30th June 2025, PELUM Kenya, in partnership with COSDEP and with support from SSNC/BROT, officially launched the Githunguri Organic Farmers Market in Kiambu County under the PENELI IV project. The initiative aims to connect agroecological farmers with local consumers by providing a dedicated marketplace for safe, organic, and sustainably produced food. The roadside market, currently operational while the main market space is under construction, features fresh produce, herbs, value-added products, and bio-inputs.

The launch event brought together 46 participants—including farmers, government officials, private sector partners, and media houses such as Inooro TV and TV47—to celebrate this milestone. The event highlighted strong stakeholder collaboration, high consumer interest, and the importance of agroecology in improving food security and livelihoods. However, challenges such as limited public awareness and funding were noted, prompting calls for annual organic market days and more support for participating organizations.



MEDIA COVERAGE DURING THE LAUNCH OF GITHUGURI MARKET



Establishment of Two Community Tree Nurseries in Busia

Teso South Subcounty has faced increasing environmental degradation, deforestation, and limited livelihood opportunities, particularly among marginalized groups. In September TRANSCOM was supported to establish two community tree nurseries to address these environmental issues through promoting climate-smart practices, restoring degraded ecosystems, and economically empowering vulnerable populations. One tree nurser was set up in Alupe by Evolver youth group and Alupe widows and the other nursery was set up by Pumpkin Farmers group in Okame. The longterm goal of both groups is to expand the nurseries to accommodate more seedlings and species, which will provide the community with a supply of diverse , healthy trees, seedlings for environmental restoration, and partner with schools and institutions for tree planting drives.



Empowering the Ilchamus Community Through Soil Health and Livestock Feed Training

The Ilchamus community, also known as the Njemps, is a minority group in Marigat, Baringo County, whose livelihood largely depends on livestock and small-scale farming. Over time, the introduction of *Prosopis Juliflora* to combat desertification has brought unintended negative impacts—reducing grazing land and affecting livestock health. Additionally, land leasing for conventional tomato farming has left soils infertile after a few years, worsening the community's struggle for sustainable livelihoods and forcing seasonal migration in search of pasture.

To help address these challenges, the Indigenous Women and Girls Initiatives (IWGI), with support from PELUM Kenya, held a two-day practical training on soil health, feed formulation, and preservation. The training equipped participants with skills to restore soil fertility for pasture production and make silage to ensure livestock feed during dry seasons. Through hands-on demonstrations, the Ilchamus community gained practical knowledge on sustainable land management and livestock feed preservation. This initiative is a step toward enhancing resilience, improving productivity, and promoting agroecological solutions that safeguard both livelihoods and the environment in Baringo County.



Seed and food fair in Mulwanda, Kakamega county

On 30th September 2025, ADS Western, in partnership with PELUM Kenya, hosted a vibrant Seed and Food Fair in Mulwanda Village, bringing together 130 participants from Kakamega and Vihiga counties. The event created an interactive platform for farmers to learn about the importance of indigenous seed saving, share best practices, and discuss challenges within Farmer Managed Seed Systems.

With the growing impacts of climate change on agriculture, the fair emphasized the need for farmers to take control of what they plant and eat by prioritizing viable, locally adapted seeds. The exchange not only celebrated traditional seed knowledge but also strengthened farmers' capacity to build resilient and sustainable food systems for future generations.



AWOLA Expands to Malawi and Nigeria: Empowering Women Leaders in Agroecology



Welcome aboard, AWOLA Malawi & AWOLA Nigeria

The African Women Leaders in Agroecology (AWOLA) program continues to grow stronger, expanding its reach to Malawi and Nigeria. This milestone marks a new chapter in advancing women's leadership in science, agriculture, and academia across Africa.

In Nigeria, AWOLA mentors are transforming spaces traditionally dominated by men in conventional agriculture and research. They are actively bridging the gap between research, academia, and policy, with a focus on creating inclusive data systems that use gender-disaggregated data to inform agroecology research and policy monitoring.

Meanwhile, AWOLA Malawi is breaking barriers for women often excluded from leadership due to language, location, and systemic gender challenges. The team includes a dynamic mix of women from the corporate, humanitarian, farming, and agroenterprise sectors, working together to promote equity and innovation.

AWOLA Kenya Cohort 3 has also brought in diverse women leaders driving change in legislation, technology, and agribusiness. With the successful recruitment of 30 mentees and 30 mentors from five countries, AWOLA continues to nurture a powerful network of women reshaping Africa's agroecological future.



PELUM Kenya at the Africa Food System Summit in Dakar



At the Africa Food Systems Forum held in Dakar, Senegal, a vibrant thematic session titled “Regenerating Africa: How Young Agripreneurs are Leading Food Systems Transformation through Agroecology for People and Planet” shone a spotlight on the power of youth-led innovation in reshaping Africa’s food systems.

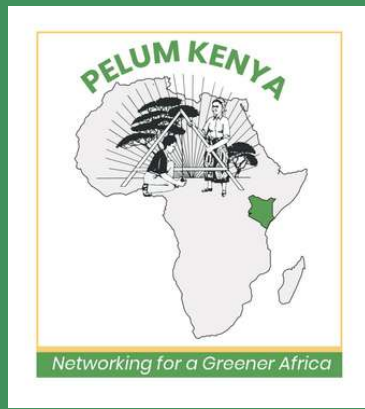
The session explored how young agripreneurs across the continent are using agroecological principles—such as diversification, soil regeneration, circular economies, and local governance—to advance sustainable production and food sovereignty. Through case studies and interactive dialogue, participants discussed the enabling conditions needed to scale up youth-led agroecology, including policy alignment, access to finance, and knowledge-sharing networks.

Representing Kenya, Ms. Manei Naanyu, Head of Programmes at PELUM Kenya, shared the network’s experiences in advocating for agroecology through multi-level policy engagement. She highlighted PELUM Kenya’s leadership in supporting the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation, promoting women and youth land rights, and championing budget allocations for agroecology at both national and county levels. Ms. Naanyu emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and resource mobilization to sustain policy advocacy and implementation.

Key Messages from the Session:

- Youth and women are driving agroecological transformation, merging traditional and modern knowledge to restore ecosystems and strengthen local food sovereignty.
- Agroecology fosters resilient, socially just, and environmentally sustainable food systems grounded in biodiversity and soil health.
- Investing in youth-led agroecological enterprises is vital for Africa’s future, creating inclusive, sustainable livelihoods within planetary limits.





2025



Upcoming Key event

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**AFRICA WOMEN IN AGROECOLOGY
LEARNING EXCHANGE AND EXPO IN KENYA**

CONTACT US

For inquiries/contributions, email us on:

events@pelumkenya.net

Call/WhatsApp : [+254709746939](tel:+254709746939)

www.pelumkenya.net



@PELUM Kenya