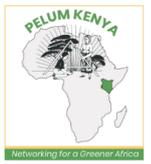




THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OF BUNGOMA
Our Heritage, Our Wealth.



OCT
2025

POLICY BRIEF

ASSESSMENT OF THE INTEGRATION OF
SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' PRIORITIES INTO
2024/2025 AND 2025/2026 COUNTY ANNUAL
DEVELOPMENT PLANS (ADPS) AND BUDGETS

BUNGOMA COUNTY

OCTOBER 2025



Key messages

- The findings show that the county government of Bungoma integrated significant percentage (75%) of farmers proposals in ADPs, showing high responsiveness to farmers' interest.
- Sustainable agriculture received increased funding, supporting farm inputs, mechanization services, and extension. value addition, provision of feeds and fodder, and breed improvement.
- Climate change allocations declined slightly, with partial inclusion of household-level adaptation.
- Agroforestry funding dropped significantly in 2025/2026 as compared to the previous financial year, raising concerns on long-term soil restoration and community-based tree nurseries and seedling survival monitoring.
- Water programs were well-funded but there was partial inclusion of maintenance of water infrastructure and community-level governance mechanisms as proposed by communities
- There is need for continued civic education to sustain public participation and lobbying for inclusion of citizen interests.
- Structured interviews: With 6 relevant county officials from (Agriculture, Environment, Water, Climate Change, Finance and Economic Planning Department, Public Participation) and community organizations (KIMAETI Farmers Association, REDO Kenya and 3KM SACCO) local farmers.
- Focused Group Discussions were held with representatives from Rural Empowerment Development Organization (REDO) from Bungoma County.
- A comparative analysis of the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 ADPs and budgets was conducted to assess how smallholder farmers' priorities in sustainable agriculture, water, climate change, and agroforestry were incorporated.

Introduction

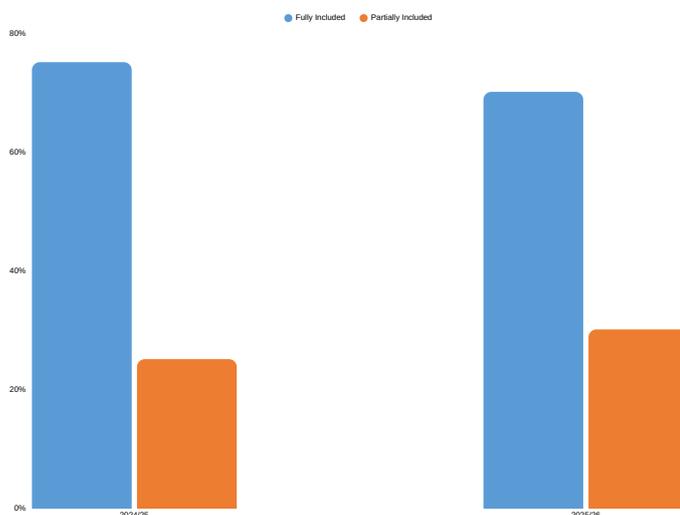
Bungoma County is located in Kenya's western region, spans 2,069 km² and is positioned between latitudes 0°28' and 1°30' North of the Equator and longitudes 34°20' and 35°15' East of the Greenwich Meridian. The county has 12 sub-counties, 45 wards, and 236 village units, with a population of 1,670,535 people (812,146 males and 858,389 females) in approximately 357,687 households. The poverty index stands at 43.9%, reflecting significant socio-economic challenges that influence development priorities.

Methodology

- PAMIC Consulting and Investment limited adopted A mixed method design that included qualitative and quantitative approaches to undertake this assessment. The approach included.
- Detailed literature review of: Documented priorities from farmers' organizations, public participation reports, 2024/25 and 2025/26 ADPs; County approved budgets for FY 2024/25 and 2025/26; Memoranda and Petitions; Public participation reports; and Programme Based Budgets.

Key findings

Status of farmers priorities and proposal inclusion into the ADP.



Observations and remarks

During FY 2024/25, 75% of farmers' proposals were fully included in ADPs, while 25% were partially included, with none was absolutely excluded. In FY 2025/26, 70% of proposals were fully included, 30% partially included, and none excluded.

This finding suggests that while Bungoma County continues to demonstrate strong commitment to integrating farmer priorities into planning and budgeting, emerging gaps in areas such as climate change adaptation, agroforestry, and water infrastructure maintenance require closer attention to safeguard long-term agricultural resilience and sustainability.

In FY 2024/25, there were no farmer proposals documented making it difficult to determine the level of integration in the ADP. In the FY 2025/26, farmer participation improved significantly, with 75% of proposals fully included and 25% partially included, and none excluded. This shift demonstrates stronger county commitment to participatory planning and budget responsiveness, though gaps remain in fully addressing climate change, agroforestry, and water priorities.

Sustainable Agriculture

Bungoma County allocated KES 744.8 million in FY 2024/25, rising to KES 1.129 billion in FY 2025/26, reflecting a strong commitment to farmer priorities. Fully included proposals under this sector were subsidized farm inputs, mechanization services, extension support, value addition, provision of feeds and fodder, and breed improvement. However, soil testing, lime application, crop protection, and agricultural insurance coverage to cushion farmers against climate and market shocks were only partially addressed despite the increased allocation.

Climate change

The county allocated KES 993 million in FY 2024/25 and KES 938.7 million in FY 2025/26 to climate change interventions. While these allocations reflect ongoing investment, the slight reduction suggests a need for improved focus on household-level adaptation measures. Under this theme, farmer priorities such as soil improvement, lime application, crop protection, and tree nursery programs were partially included. No proposals were fully included, and none were excluded absolutely, highlighting gaps in localized, smallholder-focused climate strategies

Agroforestry

Agroforestry funding declined sharply from KES 224.4 million in FY 2024/25 to KES 130 million in FY 2025/26, indicating reduced emphasis on this area. The key farmer proposals support for community-based tree nurseries and seedling survival monitoring—was partially included. No proposals were fully included, and none were excluded, yet the declining budget raises concerns about the county's commitment to soil restoration, carbon sequestration, and diversified income sources.

Water

Water programs received KES 1.663 billion in FY 2024/25 and KES 1.053 billion in FY 2025/26, showing continued recognition of its role in supporting agriculture and livelihoods. Most farmer priorities in this theme were fully included, covering irrigation and livestock water support. However, maintenance of water infrastructure and community-level governance mechanisms were partially included, limiting long-term sustainability. No priorities were excluded under this theme.

Key Recommendations

- Introduce/ strengthen project oversight committees, to monitor implementation with community representation.
- Public meetings should be held in central areas, in the village level or at the chief's camps with suitable notice through local radios and media channels.
- Push for full adoption of County Public Participation Act. Invoke broader frameworks like the Malabo Declaration (2014) to strengthen agriculture's profile in development planning.
- There is need to disseminate information to the public in a timely manner for proper. There is also need to avail information, data, documents, and other information relevant or related to policy formulation and implementation in a timely manner.
- Empower farmers on budget processes, environment laws, and advocacy tools. Train extension staff and CSOs to conduct grassroots civic education on participation rights



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