

POLICY BRIEF

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

BUSIA COUNTY

OCTOBER 2025

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Key messages

- Farmers proposals in FY 2024/25 could not be found and verified hence difficult to determine the level of inclusion. The county allocated KES 560 million to sustainable agriculture, with no explicit resources dedicated to climate change, agroforestry, or water.
- During FY 2025/26 farmers submitted proposals and priorities with 75% of their priorities fully included, while 25% partially included, and none excluded.
- During the above-mentioned period, the county also allocated KES 506 million to sustainable agriculture, KES 60 million to climate change, KES 20 million to agroforestry, and KES 270.5 million to water, reflecting a stronger commitment to inclusion of farmer priorities.

Introduction

Busia County covers 1,694.5 km² and is in Kenya's western region between latitudes 0° 0'45' North and longitude 34°25' East. Administratively, the county is divided into seven sub-counties, 10 divisions, 60 locations, 181 sub-locations, and 120 villages. According to the 2019 census, Busia has a population of 893,653 residents, comprising 467,401 females and 426,252 males, and records a poverty level of 58.3%.

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

- Interviews: With 6 relevant county officials from (Agriculture, Environment, Water, Climate Change, Finance and Economic Planning Department, Public Participation) and partner organizations (Kenya Scouts Association)
- Focused Group Discussion was held with representatives from Kenya Scouts Association from Busia County and farmer organizations.
- 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 included.
- In-depth analysis: To determine the extent to which smallholder farmers' proposals and priorities were reflected in the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 ADPs and budgets by comparing planned allocations across the two financial years.

Key findings

Status of farmers priorities and proposal inclusion into the ADP.

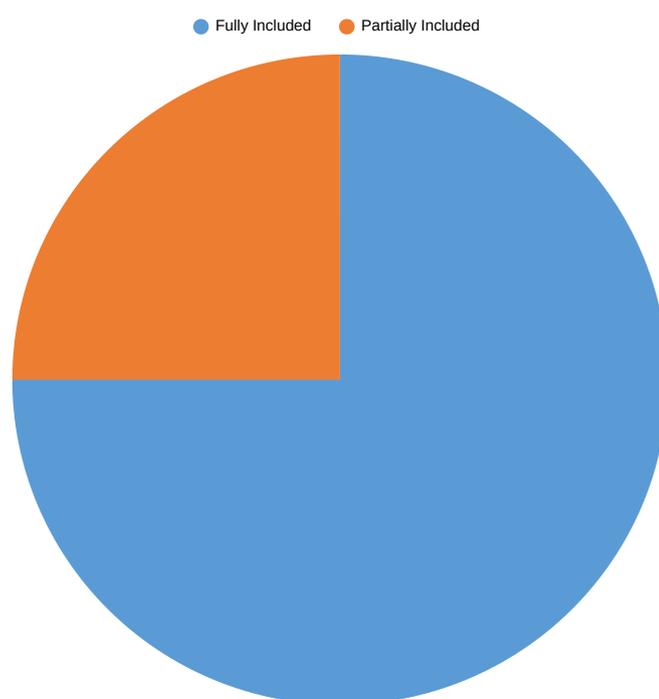


Figure 1; Showing percentages of Farmer proposals & Inclusion Status for FY 24/25

Observations and remarks

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

In FY 2024/25, KES 560 million was allocated to sustainable agriculture without direct alignment to farmer proposals due to lack of participation. In FY 2025/26 a total of 506 million was budgeted for agriculture. Farmer priorities were integrated, with six proposals fully included and two partially included. Fully addressed areas included subsidized inputs, mechanization services, extension support, feeds and fodder provision, breed improvement, and fishpond support. Partial inclusion were observed in soil pH testing, crop protection, and value addition infrastructure, indicating the need for expanded investment in post-harvest and processing facilities.

Climate change

In FY 2025/26 climate action was allocated KES 60 million budget. Farmer priorities on locally led climate initiatives were partially addressed, additionally, there is a strong need for integration of household-level adaptation measures and access to climate finance mechanisms for greater impact.

Agroforestry

In FY 2025/26, there was partial integration of farmers' priorities. However, KES 20 million was allocated to support bamboo and wetland restoration. There was also limited funding for community tree nurseries which hinders full realization of agroforestry objectives.

Water

In FY 2025/26, KES 270.5 million was allocated to water, farmer priorities such as water quality testing laboratories and infrastructure development were partially integrated in the ADP 2025/26. However, operations and maintenance of water facilities were not adequately integrated, posing sustainability concerns.

Key recommendations

1. Capacity build youth and women on essential skills and knowledge in governance, accountability, risk management, communication, confidence, and talent development.
2. Utilize online platforms, such as WhatsApp, more effectively to boost public awareness and facilitate remote participation, particularly for youth and those living in remote areas.



PELUM KENYA ADDRESS

PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LAND USE
MANAGEMENT (PELUM) KENYA COUNTRY
SECRETARIAT,
KU BOMA ESTATE, HOUSE NUMBER 114 ALONG
KENYATTA ROAD,
OFF THIKA SUPERHIGHWAY EXIT 14
P.O. BOX 6123 - 01000 THIKA, KENYA
+254 709 746 939
INFO@PELUMKENYA.NET
CONNECT WITH US:
INSTAGRAM: @PELUM KENYA
FACEBOOK: PELUM KENYA
TWITTER: @PELUMKENYA

