# PELUM KENYA



Participatory Ecological Land Use Management



INCREASING THE IMPACT OF A NETWORK:

Devolving PELUM
Kenya through Zonal
Networking

## **Editorial Team**

Jeff Kahuho Rosinah Mbenya

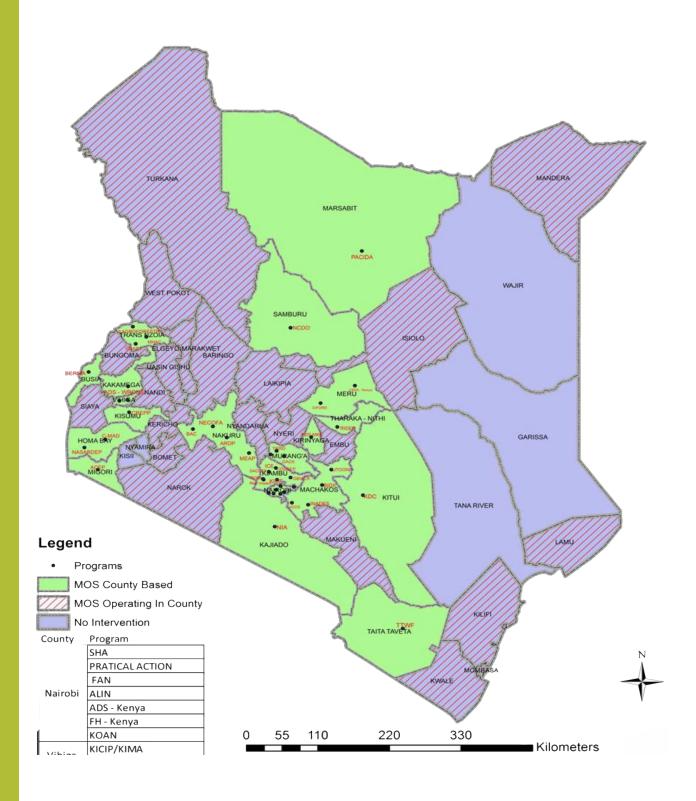
## With support;

Zachary Makanya – Country Coordinator Maryleen Micheni – Programme Operations Manager

**Design, Layout & Printing**Job Mainye



# **PELUM - Kenya Member Organizations**



# ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

**ACEP** Agriculture Community Empowerment Programme

ADS **Anglican Development Services** 

AGM **Annual General Meeting** 

ALIN Arid Lands Information Network

ARDP Agriculture and Rural Development Program

BAC Baraka Agriculture College

**BERMA** Busia Environmental Resources Management Programme

BIDII Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives

**BIOGI** Bio gardening Innovations

CEP Capacity Enhancement Programme

Community Initiatives for Rural Development CIFORD Community Mobilization Against Desertification C-MAD

Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program **CSHEP** Community Rehabilitation and Environmental Protection Program **CREPP** COSDEP Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Program

CRM Changieni Rasilimali **CSOs Civil Society Organizations** CWG **Country Working Group** FAN Forest Action Network FΗ Food for the Hungry Kenya

**GBIACK** Grow Bio-intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya

**ICE** Institute of Culture and Ecology

**IEC** Information, Education, Communication

**INADES Formation Kenya IFK** KDC Kitui Development Center

**KICIP** KIMA Integrated Community Initiative Programme

**KIOF** Kenya Institute of Organic Farming Kenya Organic Agriculture Network KOAN Maendeleo Endelevu Action Programme **MEAP** 

MOs **Member Organizations** 

MHAC Manor House Agriculture Centre NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NCDO Nainyoiye Community Development Organization

Nyanza Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Program NARSADEP

**NECOFA** Network for Eco Farming in Africa Neighbours Initiative Alliance NIA Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya OACK

Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance **PACIDA** 

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management **PELUM** 

PRI Permaculture Research Institute

Promoting elum and Networking for Livelihood Improvement **PENELI** 

**RIDEP** Rural Initiatives Community Development Program

RODI Resources Oriented Development Initiative.

**SACDEP** Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme

SHA Self Help Africa

**SMART** Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resources Technologies

Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum **TTWF** 

UDO **Utooni Development Organization** 

**WED** World Environment Day

YARD Youth Action for Rural Development



# **FOREWORD**

PELUM Kenya was one of the Country Chapters formed immediately after the launch of PELUM Association in October 25, 1995. Initially it had five pioneer Members led by SACDEP Kenya based in Thika. The others were: C-MAD based in Rongo, Nyanza; OFOP (now RODI Kenya) based in Ruiru, Kiambu; Baraka Agriculture College based in Molo and Manor House Agriculture Centre based in Kitale. SACDEP was given the task to host the new PELUM Kenya's Country Desk. Its key role as the host member included: mobilizing resources for the operations of the new network, linking PELUM Kenya with funding partners; providing the Country Desk Coordinator with an office and other utility services like photocopying, telephones and computer; helping to introduce the principles of elum and hence increase the number of NGOs. It was envisaged that this would eventually lead to network expansion and growth.

SACDEP played this role for the next 7 years (1995 - 2002. It placed responsibility of running PELUM Kenya to one of its Senior Programme Officer on a 70% / 30% SACDEP and PELUM Kenya respectively. The key achievements during this period includes organizing capacity development workshops; organizing several exchange, exposure and learning visits; organizing the PELUM Association first Biennial General Meeting (BGM) in October 1999. By this time, more members joined the young network and there was a total of 18 Member Organizations.

During the second PELUM Association BGM held in South Africa in 1999, the delegates made a resolution to make PELUM Association Country Desks more autonomous and less dependent on the host organizations. PELUM Kenya was among the first Country Chapters to implement this resolution. PELUM Kenya journey towards being self-autonomous began in March 2002 when its first full time Country Coordinator was employed. This second phase in PELUM Kenya life brought rapid growth and expansion as follows: The members increased from 18 to the present 46; the increase of the country Secretariat Staff increased from 1 (one) to the current 13; the increase in funding partners and hence the funding and resource base; increase activities being implemented at the Country Secretariat; emergence of strong Finance and Human Resource Management and governance systems.

This expansion also came with its own challenges: Organizing workshop for a large number of participants; the large increase of members and small scale farmers being reached by the network. This eventually led to a significant reduction in member – member and farmer to farmer networking.

Through elaborate and consultative participatory processes, the idea of initiating Zonal Networking was mooted. First it started to be rolled through PELUM Kenya's on-going programmes through local platforms. Eventually, all the members of the network agreed that Zonal Networking is a viable idea and the best way to go for PELUM Kenya. It was noted that the initiative also resonated well with the devolved forms of Kenya country and county governments. The initiative was finally democratically ratified during the 2014 AGM in Maua, Meru.

We in PELUM Kenya strongly believe that Zonal Networking is an idea whose time has come. It should be noted that the current ideas on Zonal Network are not cast in stone. PELUM Kenya and its Board, Management and members will always be on lookout for learning and changing what needs to be changed in order to optimize the benefits of horizontal networking.

This initiative is yet another bold attempt by PELUM Kenya to show that networking at the local level can be made to work and that it is one of the missing and often ignored links to promote sustainable development. In doing this, PELUM Kenya is heavily borrowing from a quote by Mr. Harold R. McaAlindon who once said: "Do not go where there is a path or a road to follow, instead, go to where there are no paths or roads and leave a trail for others to follow." We believe that many networks will borrow best practices that will emerge from this PELUM Kenya's model of networking. We therefore urge all the members of PELUM Kenya to support the initiative. We also urge funding partners to support our bid to reach more smaller holder farmers and communities at the grass-root.

## Zachary Makanya,

**Country Coordinator; PELUM Kenya** 

## 1. ABOUT PELUM ASSOCIATION

#### 1.1 A BRIEF HISTORY OF PELUM ASSOCIATION

PELUM Association as a network was launched in October 25, 1995 at Udu Camp, which is located with Nyanga National Park in Zimbabwe. The launch was preceded by a long "Courtship" of like-minded organizations. The conception of PELUM Association started in 1991. Fambidzanai Training Centre consulted with the Permaculture Trust of Botswana on how they could enhance the effectiveness and impact of perma-culture, a landuse system that emphasizes on symbiotic relationship. Both organizations had been doing permaculture training for at least three years but, were uncertain about the effect and impact of their work. They decided to carry out an evaluation which revealed a discrepancy between the intention and the performance. It was concluded that perma-culture was too narrow to address the holistic needs of the community development and that they two week training period (they offered) was too short to allow for deep comprehension and acquisition of skills by the course participants.

These revelations and discoveries led to intense consultations between the two institutions and with time, invited other like-minded organizations. The ideas and experiences of these experienced development workers and experts led to the conception of Regional Association for Peasant Production (RAPP), the predecessor of PELUM was born. The name later changed to "Training Association for Participatory Ecology Land Use Management in East and Southern Africa (TAPELUMESA) and finally to PELUM Association during the launch. During the launch, it had 25 pioneer organization and these have now grown to over 260 members in 12 countries of eastern, south and Central Africa. These are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland.

The members of PELUM Association in a country are referred to as a Country Working Group (CWG). All members of PELUM work with smallholder farmers, and coordinated by a Country Secretariat (CS). The network's regional secretariat is based in Lusaka, Zambia.

#### 1.2 ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Currently, PELUM Kenya has a CWG comprising of 46 Member Organizations who are working in 19 Counties of the Kenya's 47 Counties. PELUM Kenya works with Member Organizations to promote ecological land use and management practices for improved livelihoods among small holder farmers. PELUM Kenya is mandated by its members to promote Ecological Land Use Management (elum) practices and principles in Kenya through networking capacity building, 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. PELUM Kenya's Country Secretariat is based in Thika at the SACDEP Training Centre.

1.3 PELUM Kenya Vision:	Empowered and prosperous communities deriving their livelihood from sustainable land use
1.4 PELUM Kenya Mission:	To Promote Ecological Land Use Principles and Management Practices for Improved Livelihoods among Small scale Farmers and Pastoralists in Kenya

## 1.5 PELUM Kenya Core Values:

- Commitment to Networking and Partnership
- Transparency and Accountability
- Innovativeness

## 1.6 PELUM Kenya's Key areas of focus, 2016-2020

- Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Resource Management
- Agro-enterprises
- Resource Mobilization

- Equity and Justice
- Professionalism

## Internal Capacity Building

- Networking and Collaboration
- Monitoring and Evaluation

## 1.7 The six (6) Networking Zones

Nairobi and Central, Upper Eastern & Northern Kenya, Lower Eastern and Coastal; Rift Valley; Nyanza; and Western



## 2. BACKGROUND OF ZONAL INITIATIVE

Over the years, PELUM-Kenya has been planning to strengthen zonal collaboration among the Members. PELUM Kenya believes that this is the best way to increase the benefits of networking to members and thus increasing the impact of its work to the communities and farmers. PELUM Kenya zonation has been discussed on several occasions and in various fora. It was known that zonation of PELUM-Kenya will enhance and increase horizontal networking among the PELUM-Kenya Members. In an effort to entrench zonation initiative ideologies PELUM-Kenya has endeavored in designing and implementing projects that involve zonal members geographically. The PENELI Programme, CRM and Siemenpuu Supported projects have been implemented through a process of involvement and participatory implementation by the zonal members.

## 2.1 The PENELI II Programme

Designed to support zonal collaboration: supports networking events, information sharing and Member Organizations zonal collaboration such as the AGM and CWG which are hosted rotationally in regions by an MO from that region and, organizing zonal events e.g. field visits and tree planting activities. There has also been the establishment of the national thematic committees in (Marketing, Advocacy, Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning) comprised of zonal members, marking World AIDS Day, and development and support of joint initiatives by zonal members all of which point to the need of the network zonation.

## 2.2 The Changieni Rasilimali (CRM) Programme

The goal of this programme was to increase the citizenry participation including the resource poor in governance and sustainable utilization of natural resources. Five (5) Platforms were involved in the CRM Project: The Trans Nzoia Platform (Trans Nzoia County), Western Eco-region Platform (Kakamega, Vihiga and Busia counties), Lower Eastern Platform (Kajiado, Kitui and Machakos Counties), Central Rift Platform (Nakuru County) and Central Platform (Kiambu County). PELUM-Kenya members in these regions were involved in jointly implementing the project by jointly participating in events such as World Environmental Day and advancing the one million tree campaign.

#### 2.3 Zonal Establishment and Endorsement

During the PELUM –Kenya AGM held in 2014 in Maua Meru, among the key discussions which the delegates deliberated on was establishment of zones. The members endorsed establishment of 6 zones based on geographical regions as follows:

- 1) Central and Nairobi Zone
- 2) Rift Valley Zone
- 3) Western Zone
- 4) Nyanza Zone
- 5) Lower Eastern and Coast Zone
- 6) Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone

More information about the zones are in found in Chapter 5

## 2.4 Siemenpuu Supported Zonal Initiative

PELUM-Kenya shared the zonal networking initiative with Siemenpuu Foundation who agreed to support zonal networking activities for the year 2015. Among the key highlights of the support include:

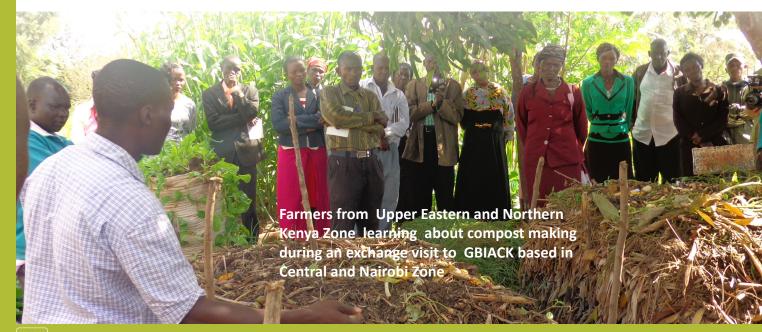
- 1. Hiring of 6 Zonal Networking Coordinators (ZNC's),
- 2. Launching of the Zonal Platform
- 3. Supporting some Zonal Networking activities.

Siemenpuu support was also designed to complement the on-going PENELI II Programme by solidifying Members' zonal networking and collaboration, ensuring efficient coordination of the zonal members by recruiting Networking Coordinators and providing a platform for developing joint zonal initiatives by members.

# 3. THE BENEFITS OF ZONAL NETWORKING

## The envisaged benefits of Zonal Networking include:

- 1. Realignment of PELUM Kenya networking functions such that they are in line with the devolved county governments. This is aimed at increasing resources at the grass root hence enhance development at local level.
- 2. Increased knowledge and adoption of ecological land use practices by farmers at the grass root level
- 3. Increased synergies and horizontal collaboration among the PELUM-Kenya member organizations in their respective zone.
- 4. Creating opportunities for learning: Young member organizations can learn from the more experienced members
- 5. Increased visibility of PELUM Kenya and its members at the grass-roots, zones and in the regions
- 6. Increased impact of PELUM Kenya by farmers and grass-root communities
- 7. The initiatives designed by the Country Secretariat will be more informed by issues emerging from the ground. Thus PELUM Kenya will address the real and pertinent issues that affects in primary and secondary beneficiaries
- 8. The capacity of the MOs will be further strengthened, this will improve their skills to mobilize, organize and work with farmer and community groups
- 9. Strengthened transparency and accountability among PELUM Kenya member organizations and their partner organizations through the ripple effect.
- 10. Increase recognition by County Governments and local Development Agencies in the county.
- 11. Increased chances of the member organizations attracting local donors is high. *NB: Donors are shifting funding to networks and consortiums.*
- 12. Easy to closely monitor and track implementation progress
- 13. Increased membership of PELUM Kenya from the zones.
- 14. Strengthened influence of PELUM Kenya members in shaping local policies and development trends
- 15. The Country Secretariat will not look "bloated" with many staff since some will be in the zonal secretariats.
- 16. PELUM Kenya will be doing more without becoming big
- 17. PELUM Kenya will become more member-driven as opposed to Secretariat-driven



## 4. THE PELUM KENYA NETWORKING

In the year 2015 PELUM-Kenya held zonal meetings which led to the establishment of the six zones in Kenya. The Zonal Members also established Zonal Steering Committees and selected Host Organizations. Each Zonal Committee is made up of 5 representatives from the MOs of the region. Each zone is coordinated by a Zonal Networking Coordinator (ZNC) who operates from the Host Organization.

The details of the Zone are:

## 4.1 ZONE: LOWER EASTERN AND COAST

Zonal Working Group members: BIDII, INADES; NIA; KDC; ADS Eastern; UDO; TTWF; CSHEP Host member Organization:

Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDII)

P.O. Box 1682 – 90100 Machakos

Tel: 044- 21732/ 0713248518

E-mail: bidii@bidii-ngo.org

Website: www.bidii.or.ke

Office location: Machakos, Machakos County

## 4.2 ZONE: WESTERN

Zonal Working Group members: ADS Western; BERMA; BIOGI; KICIP; VIAFP; MHAC; SMART

Host member organization: Anglican Development Services (ADS Western)

P.O. Box. 2830 – 50100, Kakamega
TEL: 056 – 30610 / 0727- 407834
Email: ackwrccs@swiftkenya.com

Office location: ADS Offices, Kakamega, Kakamega County

## 4.3 ZONE: NYANZA

Zonal Working Group members: C-MAD, CREPP; NARSADEP; ACEP

Host member organization: Community Rehabilitation and Environmental Protection

Program (CREPP)

P.O. BOX 86 Awasi (Nyando),

Cell Phone: +254 -722617030/ 722401387 E-mail: crepprogramme@yahoo.com

Website: www.crepp.org

Office location: CREPP Office, Awasi, Kisumu County

## 4.4 ZONE: RIFT VALLEY

Zonal Working Group members: ARDP; BARAKA AC; NECOFA; MEAP

Host member organization: Baraka Agricultural College P.O. Box 52- 20106, Molo Kenya,

Cell Phone: 0725 777421 Fax: 0202313443

E-mail: crepprogramme@yahoo.com

Website: www.crepp.org

Office location: BAC Offices, Molo, Nakuru County

## 4.5 ZONE: UPPER EASTERN AND NORTHERN KENYA

Zonal Working Group members: CIFORD; ADS Mt. Kenya East; RIDEP; CEFA; NCDO;

PACIDA; FH Kenya

Host member organization: Anglican Development Services ADS Mt. Kenya East

P.O Box 290-10300 – Kerugoya

Tel: 020 2060565/0720 232 181

Email: adsmke@adsmke.org

Website: http://www.adsmke.org

Website: www.crepp.org

Office location: ADS Isiolo Offices, Isiolo County

## 4.6 ZONE: CENTRAL AND NAIROBI

Zonal Working Group members: SACDEP. GBIACK; OACK; YARD; RODI; KIOF; ICE; COSDEP;

REAL IMPACT; FAN; ALIN; ADS Kenya; PRACTICAL ACTION;

KOAN; PRI; SHA

Host member organization: Institute of Culture and Ecology (ICE)

P.O. Box 6270- 01000, Thika, Cell Phone: +254- 723 684 523 Fax: 0202313443 
E-mail: ice@ice.or.ke

Website: www.icekenya.org

Blog: www.icekenya.blogspot.com
Office location: ICE Office, Thika, Kiambu County



## 5. THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 5.1 The Roles of the Zonal Networking Coordinators (ZNCs)

- Strengthen horizontal networking, collaboration and the working relationship of the PELUM Kenya members and partners in respective zones.
- ii. Mobilize and organize the members in their respective zones, solidify their unity, and create forums for members to generate and share ideas, cultivating a culture of creativity for the expansion of PELUM Kenya network in the zone.
- iii. Mobilize resources for more joint projects implementation in their respective zones.
- iv. Mobilize the zonal members to collaborate with the County Government units and like-minded stakeholders in the respective counties. These activities should be geared towards establishing vibrant PELUM-Kenya Member' zonal networking forums.
- v. Linking the zonal forums with other zonal forums in order to increase synergy among the zones.
- vi. Coordinate and convene zonal committee meetings.

## 5.2 The Roles of the Host Organization

- i. Generally oversee the Networking Coordinator
- ii. Mentoring and supervision of the Zonal Networking Coordinators
- iii. Receive the Sub granting and Coordinating activities
- iv. Authenticate reports submitted to PELUM Kenya Secretariat and the members within the zones
- v. Ensure that the operations of the network zone run smoothly
- vi. Keep on updating PELUM Kenya country Secretariat on the progress of the zone networking.
- vii. Open a bank account for and on behalf of the Networking Zone that is separate from the organizational bank account
- viii. Use the policies of the organization to manage the funds of the Networking Zone
- ix. Ensure that their finance Department keeps the book of accounts accurately and prepares and submits finance reports in accordance to the stipulated guidelines as provided by PELUM Kenya Country Secretariat and Funding partner.

#### 5.3 The Roles of the Country Secretariat

- i. Collaborate with host member organization to plan, coordinate and guide activities related to the Zonal networking.
- ii. Remunerate the Zonal Networking Coordinators on monthly basis
- iii. Disburse financial resources to host member organizations to support the networking zone activities when available
- iv. Act on matters arising from the zones based on recommendation by the Zonal Steering Committees

#### 5.4 The Roles of the Member Organizations

- i. Actively participate in zonal activities
- ii. Generate ideas and initiatives for implementing joint zonal projects
- iii. Mobilize Resources to support initiatives
- iv. Support the Zonal Networking Coordinators and the Host Organization in ideas, Resources e.tc to enhance networking and collaboration

## 5.5 The Zonal Steering Committees

- i. Provide leadership and advice in the zonal Forum to ensure smooth running of the operations
- ii. Making strategic decisions concerning future realization of the Zonal Objectives
- iii. Assist in creating guidelines which provide strategic directions for the operations in the zone
- iv. Take the lead in Resource Mobilization to ensure adequate Resources for the Zone
- v. Link the Zonal Networking coordinators with donors and strategic partners.
- vi. Establish relevant sub-committees with specific assignments and tasks. For example, Marketing/Advocacy/ Resource Mobilization committees. Some subcommittees may be transitory according to a specific assignment.
- vii. Make decisions on the Zonal Operations and recommend them to the PELUM-Kenya Secretariat

# 6. THE ZONES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMBERS

### 6.1 Western Zone

- 1. Anglican Development Services (ADS) Western
- 2. Busia Environmental and Resource Management (BERMA)
- 3. Bio- Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)
- 4. Kitui Integrated Community Initiative Program (KICIP)
- 5. VI Agroforestry
- 6. Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC)
- 7. Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resource Technologies (SMART)

## 6.2 Nairobi/Central Zone

- 1. Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP)
- 2. Grow Bio-Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK)
- 3. Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)
- 4. Youth Acton for Rural Development (YARD)
- 5. Resources Oriented Development Initiatives (RODI) Kenya
- 6. Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF)
- 7. Institute of Culture and Ecology (ICE)
- 8. Community Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection Program (COSDEP)
- 9. Real Impact for Sustainable Growth Organization (REAL IMPACT)
- 10. Forest Action Network (FAN)
- 11. Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)
- 12. Anglican Development Services ADS Kenya;
- 13. Practical Action East Africa
- 14. Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN)
- 15. Permaculture Research Institute (PRI)
- 16. Self Help Africa (SHA)

## 6.3 Upper Eastern and North Kenya Zone

Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD)
Anglican Development Services Mt. Kenya East (ADS MKE)
Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP)
Community Environmental Forest Action (CEFA)













- 1. PATRICK KIHORO Zonal Networking Coordinator Nairobi and Central Zone.
- 2. ANNE RUTTO Zonal Networking Coordinator Rift Valley Zone
- 3. SARAH WAMBUI Zonal Networking Coordinator Upper Eastern and Northern Kenya Zone
- 4. NEREA RADIDO Zonal Networking Coordinator Nyanza Zone
- 5. SARAH NANJALA Zonal Networking Coordinator Western Zone
- 6. EDWARD MUIRURI Zonal Networking Coordinator Lower Eastern and Coast Zone

Nainyoiye Community Development Organization (NCDO)
Pastoralists Community Initiatives and Development Assistance (PACIDA)
Food for the Hungry Kenya (FH Kenya)

## 6.4 Nyanza Zone

- 1. Community Mobilization Against Desertification (C-MAD)
- 2. Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Program (CREPP)
- 3. Nyanza Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (NARSADEP)
- 4. Agricultural Community Empowerment Program (ACEP)

## 6.5 Rift Valley Zone

- 1. Agricultural and Rural Development Program (ARDP)
- 2. Baraka Agricultural Centre (BAC)
- 3. Network for Eco farming in Africa (NECOFA)
- 4. Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP)

#### 6.6 Lower Eastern & Coast Zone

- 1. Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDII)
- 2. Inades Formation Kenya (IFK)
- 3. Neighbors Initiative Alliance (NIA)
- 4. Kitui Development Centre (KDC)
- 5. Anglican Development Services Eastern (ADSE)
- 6. Utooni Development Organization (UDO)
- 7. Taita Taveta Wildlife Foundation (TTWF)
- 8. Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP)



## 7. THE ROLLING OUT OF ZONAL NETWORKING





ADS Western farmer demonstrating the best practice she acquired from an exchange visit to BERMA

Lower Eastern & Coast Zone:

Esther Musili LECZ Chairperson cutting the cake during the zonal launch in Machakos



Western Zone:

Rosina holding a brief meeting with the advocates for change group during the visit



### Nairobi and Central Zone:

A Farmer making a presentation during an advocacy forum at RODI Center



Rift Valley Zone:

The launch of the Rift Valley zone



## Nyanza Zone:

Live media recording during an advocacy forum with farmers in Migori County







# **PELUM KENYA**



P.o. box: 6123-01000, Thika, Kenya



**Tel:** +254-(20)-2622674



Fax: +254-(20)-2622674



Email: pelumkenya@pelum.net



Website: www.pelum.net