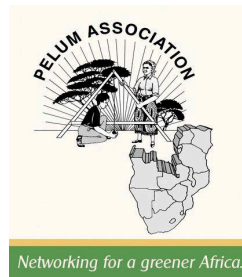


PRESS RELEASE

GLOBAL
COLLABORATION
for RESILIENT
FOOD SYSTEMS

McKNIGHT FOUNDATION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FARMERS FROM AFRICA AND THE ANDES MOUNTAINS OF SOUTH AMERICA JOIN A GLOBAL NETWORK OF RESEARCHERS, NGOS, POLICYMAKERS, AND FUNDERS TO EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF FOOD

KISUMU, KENYA (October 21, 2024) – Climate change and global trends are already impacting our food systems, threatening our ability to feed our world. This month, a global network of over 100 participants including smallholder farmers from Africa and the Andes Mountains of South America, researchers, NGOs, policymakers, and funders from nearly twenty countries across five continents will come together in Kisumu. The convening, *Reaching Across*, will be a meeting to discuss and advance co-created research that shows how agroecology—a holistic, equitable, ecosystem approach to agriculture—can transform food systems at the local, regional, national, and global level.

Our world's food system has always relied on rural, smallholder farmers. And yet, these farmers face incredible challenges that hinder their crops' performance, threatening their livelihoods and the health of their communities. Most pressingly, climate change impacts soil health, makes crops vulnerable to pests, or washes away or dries up entire fields.

The event's co-hosts include the [Global Collaborative for Resilient Food Systems](#) (CRFS), a program of the [McKnight Foundation](#), a philanthropic foundation based in Minnesota, USA. Three other co-hosts are

[Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization \(KALRO\)](#); [Participatory Ecological Land-Use Management \(PELUM\)](#), and [University of Eldoret](#). CRFS has worked in the region for two nearly decades and has partnered with these organizations, valuing their knowledge, leadership, and commitment to farmer centered, holistic research to improve farmer livelihoods and environmental outcomes, and new economies.

CRFS realized early on that global hunger could not be solved by simply increasing crop yield; instead, the pathway back to sustainable, dependable, and healthy crops can only be achieved when farmers can lead the research that impacts their farmland, rather than be passive recipients. When farmers co-own the process, the research becomes more useful, enduring, and effective.

In 2023, the CRFS expanded its strategy to include a vision to scale this agroecology research to shift the global norms of food systems. This convening is an essential component of fomenting wider-spread change: Bringing together agroecological champions from across the globe extends the reach of valuable information and insight.

THIS EVENT IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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The Global Collaborative for Resilient Food Systems (CRFS) works directly with farmers to advance equity and further agricultural research and practice across Africa, South America, and the Midwestern United States. CRFS is a program of the McKnight Foundation, a family foundation based in Minnesota, USA, whose mission is to advance a more just, creative, and abundant future where people and planet thrive.

Representatives from these organizations will be in attendance:

African Biodiversity Network (ABN)	Africa
Manor House Agricultural Centre Hub (MHAC)	Kenya
Minim Song Panga (AMSP)	Burkina Faso
Agroecology Fund (AEF)	International
AGUAPAN/ Agrobiodiversity Conservation	Perú
Alliance of Bioversity International	International
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)	Africa
ANPE Perú	Perú
Ateker Transformation and Sustainability Initiatives (ATSI)	Uganda
Bio Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)	Kenya
Biovision	Switzerland
CAB International (CABI)	International
Center for International Forestry Research - World Agroforestry Center (CIFOR-ICRAF)	International
Centre for Ecosystems Research and Development (CERD-UG)	Uganda
Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)	France

Colorado State University (CSU)	United States of America
Creats International	Kenya
Global Collaboration for Resilient Food Systems (CRFS)	United States of America
Dalberg Advisors	International
Development Technical Assistance Services (DeTAS)	Malawi
Emerge Centre for Innovations – Africa (ECI-Africa)	Kenya
Farm Input Promotions Africa (FIPS-Africa)	Kenya
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	International
Agricultural Improvement Support Service (AGRISS)	Kenya
CREPP	Kenya
FUMA-Gaskiya	Niger
Fundación Aliados	Ecuador
Fundación PROINPA	Bolivia
Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GA)	International
International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)	Kenya
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	International
Innovations in Development, Education and the Mathematical Sciences (IDEMS)	International
Indigenous Women and girls initiative (IWGI)	Kenya
Institut de Recherche en Sciences Appliquées et Technologies (IRSAT/CNRST)	Burkina Faso
Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)	Kenya
Kenyan Peasants League	Kenya
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)	Malawi
Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUASt)	Zimbabwe
McKnight Foundation	United States of America
Fédération des Unions de Groupements Paysans du Niger - MOORIBEN (FUGPN Mooriben)	Niger
Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (MVIWATA)	Tanzania
National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)	Uganda
Natural Resources Institute (NRI)	United Kingdom
One Acre Fund	Africa
Oxfam	International
P'KWI Cooperative	Uganda
Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)	Kenya
Porticus	International
Prolinnova Kenya (PK)	Kenya
Promocion de la sustentabilidad y conocimientos compartidos (PROSUCO)	Bolivia
Regeneration International	Global
Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programme (SACDEP)	Kenya
Sahel Institute for Research and Development (SIRD)	Mali
Slow Food Kenya	Kenya

Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA)	Tanzania
Statistics for Sustainable Development (Stats4SD)	United Kingdom
STEPUP	Uganda
Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)	Tanzania
SWISSAID	Ecuador
Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM)	Tanzania
The Land Institute	International
The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)	Tanzania
The Rockefeller Foundation	United States of America
Trust for Community Outreach and Education (TCOE SA)	South Africa
Union locale des producteurs de céréales (ULPC)	Mali
University of Eldoret	Kenya
University of Vermont Institute for Agroecology (UVM-IfA)	United States of America
World Resources Institute (WRI)	International
World Vegetable Center	International