



CONCEPT NOTE

2ND NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

VENUE: NAIROBI, KENYA EXACT VENUE TBC

DATE: 10TH -11TH JULY 2025

THEME: SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY INITIATIVES FOR SOIL HEALTH, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, ECONOMIC STABILITY, AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS

Kenya's food system is increasingly strained by various challenges among them; climate change, land and soil degradation, biodiversity loss, rural poverty, high post harvest losses and rising food insecurity. According to the Food and Nutrition Security Assessment report 2024, 2.15 million people in Arid and Semi Arid Counties required food aid with projections indicating further deterioration with 2.8 Million people expected to face acute food insecurity between April to June 2025.

These trends underscore the urgent need for comprehensive, systemic interventions with a strong focus on climate mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem restoration, economic resilience, and equitable access to safe and nutritious food.

In this context, agroecology is increasingly recognized as a transformative, sustainable and holistic approach to agricultural development. It integrates ecological, economic, and social principles to foster resilient farming systems. However, effective implementation of agroecological practices such as soil regeneration, agroforestry, and biodiversity restoration requires long-term investment in land; thus secure and predictable land access is key to mainstreaming agroecological principles in food systems

Unfortunately, insecure land tenure remains a significant barrier, particularly for smallholder farmers, women, youths, and pastoralist communities. Without guaranteed land rights, many producers are unable or unwilling to invest in long-term, regenerative practices central to agroecology principles.

Building on the success and lessons learnt during the 1st National Agroecology Symposium held on 6th and 7th November 2024 and the recently launched National Agroecology Strategy (2024–2033), this second symposium provides a timely platform to:

- Assess progress in mainstreaming agroecology since the first symposium;
- Showcase innovations and success stories;

- And tackle key challenges, especially around policy implementation, marketing of agroecological products, land tenure, inclusivity, investment and financing for agroecological transformation.

The symposium will spotlight the lived realities of grassroots actors, who are pioneering agroecological transitions under often difficult and uncertain conditions. Their voices will be central to shaping the future of a more just, resilient, and sustainable food system in Kenya.

OVERALL GOAL

The symposium seeks to position agroecology at the center of Kenya's agricultural and food systems transformation. The **2nd National Agroecology Symposium** aims to catalyze transformative dialogue and action towards a sustainable and healthy food systems transition in Kenya through inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge sharing, and strategic partnerships.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The symposium seeks to accelerate agroecology as a key pathway for achieving **food and nutrition security, climate resilience, soil health, and environmental sustainability** in Kenya's agricultural sector. The specific objectives are to:

1. **Facilitate knowledge sharing** among policymakers, Researchers, private sector actors, civil society organizations, and farmers on successful agroecological practices and innovations.
2. **Engage policymakers and leaders** in dialogues to integrate agroecological principles into national and county-level agricultural policies, strategies, and Plans.
3. **Showcase agroecological technologies, innovations, and models** to foster learning and adoption.

PROPOSED KEY THEMES

1. Policy, Governance, and Science Nexus

Opportunities and challenges in shaping a supportive policy environment for agroecology.

Following the launch of the National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST), 2024-2033. There is a need to accelerate the implementation at both the national and county level;

This theme explores the critical intersection of policy, governance, and science in enabling agroecological transitions. Discussions will focus on the development, domestication and implementation of agroecology policies at both the national and county levels.

Emphasis will be placed on leveraging robust scientific research and indigenous knowledge to inform policy processes, establish financing mechanisms, and design incentive structures that promote agroecological adoption. The theme will also examine gaps in institutional coordination, regulatory frameworks, and political will, while highlighting counties' successful case studies that demonstrate effective policy integration and implementation.

2. Agroecological Practices for Climate Resilience, soil Health and Nutrition Security *Scaling agroecology practices to build resilience and improve food and nutrition outcomes.*

This theme will showcase proven agroecological practices that enhance resilience to climate shocks, restore ecosystems, and improve productivity. It includes focus areas such as:

- Soil health and fertility management
- Sustainable water use and conservation
- Biodiversity protection and restoration
- Integrated pest and disease management
- Circular bioeconomy and sustainable bio-inputs
- Integration of modern science and indigenous knowledge systems

In addition, this theme will delve into the role of agroecology in advancing **nutrition security**, by promoting diversified farming systems that produce nutrient-dense, locally adapted crops. The conversations will highlight how agroecology can contribute to healthier and safe diets, reduce dependency on ultra-processed foods, and strengthen community food systems.

3. Finance, Investment, and Markets for Agroecology Transition

Unlocking resources and market systems to accelerate agroecological transformation.

This theme addresses the financial and market barriers limiting the expansion of agroecological farming. It will focus on:

- Strengthening and formalizing markets for agroecological produce
- Developing inclusive, local, and territorial markets
- Enhancing value chains and certification systems for agroecological products
- Expanding access to bio-inputs and agroecological tools
- Mobilizing public and private investments
- Exploring innovative financing strategies, including blended finance, impact investment, and climate finance mechanisms
- Enhancing economic transformation for agroecological products

Stakeholders will discuss how to create enabling environments that reward ecological stewardship while ensuring market access for smallholder producers.

4. Inclusion, Social Equity, and Land Tenure

Ensuring equitable access and participation in agroecological transitions.

This thematic area underscores the socio-political dimensions of agroecology, recognizing that systemic change must be rooted in equity and inclusion.

Agroecology thrives in systems that prioritize social justice and inclusive participation. This theme will focus on:

- The empowerment of women and youth as innovators, and entrepreneurs in agroecology

- Strategies to mainstream gender equity and intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Secure and equitable land tenure, especially for marginalized groups including women, youth, and People With Disabilities
- Policies and governance structures that uphold land rights and support long-term investment in agroecological systems

5. Digital Innovation for Agroecology

Harnessing digital technologies to accelerate agroecology knowledge sharing and innovation.

Digital innovation offers a powerful pathway to enhance outreach, improve learning, and build adaptive capacity across agroecological systems

This theme explores how leveraging on digital tools and platforms can be used to support and scale agroecology. Key areas of focus include:

- Real-time data collection and analysis for evidence based decision-making
- Digital extension services and knowledge sharing platforms
- Monitoring and evaluation of agroecological indicators
- Use of mobile and ICT solutions for connecting farmers to markets, climate information , and advisory services.

Expected Results

- **Actionable Policy Recommendations:** Development of evidence-based policy briefs to implementation of the NAS-FST 2024-2033; mainstreaming of agroecology into national and county agriculture and food system policies, strategies and plans.
- **Knowledge Dissemination:** Publication of symposium proceedings, case studies, research outputs and best practices to promote wider learning and adoption of agroecological approaches.
- **Partnership and Investment:** Strengthening networks among practitioners, policymakers, development partners, and market actors to enhance collaboration on agroecology value chains development, including input access, market access, and capacity enhancement.

Target Participants

- National and County Government
- Farmers and Farmer Organizations
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Indigenous Groups
- Civil Society Organizations
- Development Partners
- Researchers and Academia ,
- Private Sector and Social Enterprises in Agroecology
- Youth and Women's Networks
- Financial Institutions and Investors
- Media and Digital Innovators

Date and Venue: 10th and 11th July 2025. The symposium is scheduled to run for two days in Nairobi, Kenya at a venue to be communicated.

Registration Procedures are captured in the official website
<https://nationalagroecologysymposium.pelumkenya.net/>

Organizers: The National Agroecology symposium is organized by PELUM Kenya in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, ISFAA, GIZ Agsys , Alliance Bioversity CIAT, CIFOR- ICRAF, Ripple Effect, WWF, Biovision Africa Trust, Action Aid International, Fastenopfer, Biovision Foundation , Hand in Hand Eastern Africa, Act for Change Trust, VSO, World Animal Protection.