



3RD NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (NAS)

DATE: 22ND – 23RD JULY 2026

Transforming Agrifood Systems through Agroecology: A One Health Approach for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Resilient Futures.

Concept Note

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Background & Context

Kenya's food systems are at a critical juncture, facing interconnected challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, rising input costs, and persistent food and nutrition insecurity, further exacerbated by the increasing prevalence of pests and diseases that threaten crop and livestock productivity. These pressures are further intensified by global shocks, including geopolitical conflicts that disrupt supply chains and affect the availability and affordability of agricultural inputs.

In response, agroecology is increasingly recognized as a transformative pathway for food systems change. Anchored in a One Health approach, it integrates human, animal, and environmental wellbeing to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood systems that enhance livelihoods and restore ecosystems.

The Government of Kenya has demonstrated commitment to this transition through the National Agroecology Strategy for Food Systems Transformation (NAS-FST) 2024–2033, which aims to transform Kenya's agrifood systems towards sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity

Building on the 1st and 2nd National Agroecology Symposia—which fostered multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge exchange, and policy engagement—the 3rd NAS aims to shift the focus from dialogue to implementation, inclusivity, and policy influence. The 2nd NAS (2025) achieved strong multi-stakeholder participation, effective technical coordination, impactful policy discussions culminating in a Call to Action, and vibrant exhibitions



KEY LESSONS

01

Prioritize fewer, high-impact sessions

02

Strengthen farmer-centered and practical engagement

03

Enhance policy follow-up mechanisms

04

Deepen inclusion of women, youth, and pastoralists

05

Improve logistics, visibility, and early planning



Rationale

The 3rd NAS comes at a pivotal moment as Kenya transitions from agroecology strategy development to implementation at scale. There is a need to strengthen linkages between policy frameworks and grassroots practice while ensuring inclusive participation of key actors, particularly women, youth, and pastoralist communities.

Global priorities for 2026

The International Year of the Woman Farmer



The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists



Regional commitments such as the IGAD Women Forum in Agrifood Systems and the Kampala CAADP commitment on women's empowerment



01

Strengthen the policy–practice interface

02

Promote inclusive food systems transformation

03

Enhance multi-stakeholder coordination

04

Amplify farmer and pastoralist voices

05

Advance the One Health approach in agrifood systems



OVERALL GOAL

To position agroecology at the center of Kenya's agrifood systems transformation by catalyzing action towards resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems through strengthened partnerships, knowledge exchange, and policy engagement.



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

01

Facilitate knowledge exchange on practical agroecological innovations and experiences.

02

Strengthen efforts to accelerate implementation of the NAS-FST (2024 - 2033)

03

Showcase agroecological technologies and models to promote adoption and market linkages

04

Promote inclusive participation, particularly of women, youth, and pastoralists.


05

Generate actionable outputs, including a policy brief and a Call to Action.



Overarching Theme: Transforming Agrifood Systems through Agroecology: A One Health Approach for Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Futures

This overarching theme highlights agroecology as a pathway for transforming agrifood systems through an integrated One Health approach that links human, animal, and environmental well-being.




01

One Health and Agroecology for Resilient Food Systems

This sub-theme will focus on operationalizing the One Health approach within agroecological systems, emphasizing the interconnections between ecosystem health, animal health, and human wellbeing.

Key approaches

1. Integrated soil, water, biodiversity, and ecosystem health management
2. Unpacking one health approach within the agrifood sector
3. Linkages between agroecology, nutrition, and human health outcomes
4. Tackling and all its forms (undernutrition, obesity, and micronutrient deficiency) through AE interventions
5. Sustainable livestock integration and animal health within agroecological systems
6. Climate resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches



02

Women, Social Inclusion, and Equitable Food Systems Transformation

Aligned with the International Year of the Woman Farmer, this sub-theme focuses on inclusive agroecological transitions by centering women, youth, and marginalized groups in agrifood systems.

Key approaches

1. Women's leadership and agency in agroecology
2. Social inclusion (youth, pastoralists, indigenous communities)
3. Access to productive resources (land, finance, markets)
4. Gender-responsive and inclusive policies and institutions
5. Women-centered nutrition and health interventions



03

Rangelands, Pastoralism, and Biodiversity

Aligned with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, this sub-theme explores agroecological approaches to sustainable rangeland management and ecosystem restoration.

Key approaches

1. Sustainable rangeland management and restoration
2. Pastoralist livelihoods, resilience, and mobility systems
3. Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration
4. Integration of indigenous and local knowledge systems



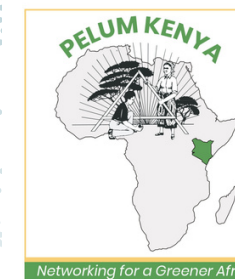
04

Policy, Governance, and Implementation of NAS-FST (2024–2033)

This sub-theme focuses on enabling environments for agroecology, including policy frameworks, financing, and response to emerging global challenges.

Key approaches

1. Implementation of the NAS-FST (2024–2033) at national and county levels: policy coherence, institutional coordination, and accountability
2. Financing agroecology and investment pathways
3. Trade and finance policy and agroecology
4. Agroecology Towards COP 31 and 32, Post Sharm el Sheikh frameworks
5. Fertiliser crisis and soil health policy frameworks
6. Emerging issues: global shocks, supply chains, and scaling innovations (bio-inputs, digital tools)



SYMPOSIUM STRUCTURE



Day 1: Agroecology Progress, Policy & Practice

High-level plenaries, keynote reflections, official opening of 3rd national agroecology symposium, thematic dialogues, and practitioner showcases focused on progress in agroecology, lessons from implementation of the NAS-FST, and practical experiences from counties, farmers, and partners driving food systems transformation.



Day 2: Scaling Agroecology, Innovation & Partnerships

Forward-looking policy and investment dialogues, innovation and enterprise showcases, partnership roundtables, and co-creation sessions focused on scaling agroecological solutions for one health challenges, strengthening markets, and advancing inclusive approaches, culminating in a Call to Action and the official closing ceremony.



Target Audience

01



Civil society organizations



02



Farmer based Organizations



03



National & County Government Ministries



04



Private-Sector Agrifood Market Players



05



Farmers



06



Development Partners and financiers



ORGANIZATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Lead Organizer



Networking for a Greener Africa

Co - Convener



Sector Government Ministries

County Governments

Development partners



Research and Academia:



Civil Society Organizations:



Multi-Stakeholder Platforms:



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