

KENYA AGROECOLOGY ANCHOR HUB SCALING UP AGROECOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS CALL TO ACTION

We the Kenya Agroecology Anchor Hub, PELUM Kenya Network Member Organizations and its stakeholders, Small Scale Farmers, Researchers, and Scientists having met in Kasarani Sportsview on **July 13th and 14th 2021** to dialogue on the contribution of Agroecology to Sustainable Food Systems, hereby issue this Call to Action towards the 2021 UNFSS.

Aware that the world is not on track to achieve SDG 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” because more than 690 million people are still facing hunger, and 2 billion people do not have access to adequate, safe and nutritious food.

Informed that agriculture plays a fundamental role in ensuring the right to food to all, mitigating climate change, and promoting employment and social stability. However, industrial agriculture with its narrative centred on increasing productivity to feed the growing population and solving the problem of hunger in the poorest countries is responsible for biodiversity loss, environmental pollution, and grabbing of natural resources, including more and more land for non-food production (biofuel, feed for intensive livestock, carbon sequestration).

Concerned that the corporate sector is using its economic power to influence the public policy sphere to see its vision endorsed and supported by public policies. They promote business-led solutions to hunger (patents, hybrid seeds, GMOs, pesticides and fertilizers, the inclusion of farmers into the global value chain, climate-smart agriculture and sustainable intensification, food fortification, precision agriculture). While they are part of the problem, they offer false solutions they mask with a new face maybe mention one or two strategies pushed forward in this masked mode

Conscious that the food systems transformation agenda is long overdue, and many social movements have been fighting for systemic and structural transformation of food systems, stressing the urgent need for a radical shift from fossil fuel-based industrial agriculture and corporate monopolies of food and agriculture to food sovereignty and agroecology.

Acknowledging that the potential of agroecology as the basis for sustainability is now widely recognized alongside the role that small scale farmers play in food security and indigenous knowledge systems do hereby make the following Call to Action to the UN Food System Summit (UNFSS)

CALL TO ACTION #1: INVESTING IN AGROECOLOGY

We **urge** the UNFSS to call for an urgent increase in budgeting and focus on agroecology at all levels of governance including donor funding and government

funding. The time is now for deliberate and increased financing, investments in agroecology for the health of the planet and people.

CALL TO ACTION #2: AGROECOLOGY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Agriculture contributes to 24% of the total greenhouse gases emission while at the same time agriculture is the backbone of most African Countries. Realizing the global trends of climate change, we **call upon** the UNFSS to prioritize agroecology as a major strategy for addressing climate change in sustainable Agricultural systems. Adopting agroecology practices will mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing dependency on fossil fuels and enhancing carbon sequestration. Agroecological practices enhance farms and communities' resilience to climate-related disasters and risks.

CALL TO ACTION#3: SEED AND GENETIC RESOURCES

While SDG 2, Target 2.5 calls for maintaining the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, we call for urgent attention to the critical role that indigenous seeds play in promoting and conserving our genetic resources. We, therefore, call for enhanced recognition and protection of farmer-managed seed systems including enabling legislative environments. We also call for stricter adherence to the safeguards enshrined in the Convention on Biological Diversity and its expansion to regulate new bioengineered technologies because of unforeseeable off-target effects, patent, and ethical issues associated with this evolving science.

CALL TO ACTION #4: PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH & DISSEMINATION

We call upon the UNFSS to embrace the idea and practice of Farmer Research Networks (FRNs), where adaptive learning, diverse evidence such as farmer's traditional and Indigenous knowledge, and the recognition that holistic understanding of food systems impacts are all essential. This should also include well-planned participatory methodologies of disseminating research findings coming from undertaking research based on community needs

CALL TO ACTION #5: WATER GOVERNANCE

We realize that sustainable Agriculture is dependent on water resources. We urge deliberate and concerted efforts towards conserving and maintaining our water resources through a participatory ecosystem-based approach.

CALL TO ACTION #6: PARTICIPATION AND OWNERSHIP OF FOOD TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

Participation and Local ownership of farmers need to be at the centre of Food Systems Transformation In the spirit of "leave no one behind", and localization, it is key to have local ownership of food system transformation

CALL TO ACTION #7: PROMOTE NUTRIENT-DENSE, SOCIOCULTURAL DIETS

Promote nutrient-dense, whole-food diets underpinned by diversified food production adapted to different microclimates and sociocultural contexts. Create positive food environments that provide equitable access, healthy dietary guidance, controls on food advertising and marketing especially to children, a precautionary approach to new products, and special consideration for vulnerable groups and women's role as agents of change.

CALL TO ACTION #8: PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Ensure integrated, participatory, rights-based approaches to governance and policymaking at all levels to address the structural inequities and power imbalances in food systems. Build processes and policy platforms on democratic principles, transparent deliberations, shared power, and inclusive participation to ensure that policies are driven not only by evidence but also by ethics and the broader public interest.

CALL TO ACTION #9: GLOBAL FOOD TRADE

World Trade Organisation (WTO) Global food trade is against the principles of food sovereignty and local sustainability. There is a need to build sustainable local food production systems first. We, therefore, call upon the UNFSS to recognize local food sufficiency as the basis of national food security

CALL TO ACTION #10: The current worldwide pandemic has demonstrated how vulnerable Regional and National Food Security and Food supply chains are. It has also reminded us of the bigger challenge of biodiversity loss, and that bioactive ingredient found in indigenous foods and herbs are required for the support of the human immune system against catastrophic infections. For this reason, we call upon the UNFSS to prioritize these aspects of our sustainable diets to avoid or reduce the frequency of relevant food and health crises in the future, whilst building stronger short food supply chains through community-supported agriculture.

ENDORSED HEREBY:

- 1 3FH Kenya
- 2 Action Aid International Kenya
- 3 Africa Biodiversity Network (ABN)
- 4 Africa IPM Alliance (AIA)
- 5 Agriculture Community Empowerment Programme (ACEP)
- 6 Agriculture Improvement Support Services (AGRISS)
- 7 Aid link- Ireland
- 8 Anglican Development Services Eastern
- 9 Anglican Development Services Mt. Kenya East
- 10 Anglican Development Services Western (ADSW)
- 11 Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)
- 12 Baraka Agricultural College (BAC)
- 13 Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives (BIDI)

- 14 Bio – Gardening Innovations (BIOGI)
- 15 Biovision Africa Trust
- 16 Busia Environmental and Resource Management (BERMA)
- 17 Caritas Meru
- 18 CARITAS Nairobi
- 19 Caritas, Catholic Diocese of Nyahururu
- 20 CEFA-KENYA
- 21 Christian Impact Mission (CIM)
- 22 Community Action for Rural Enhancement (CARE), Murang'a
- 23 Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD)
- 24 Community Mobilization Against Desertification (C-MAD)
- 25 Community Rehabilitation and Environment Protection Program (CREPP)
- 26 Community Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Environmental Program (CSHEP)
- 27 Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Program (COSDEP)
- 28 Development in Gardening (DIG)
- 29 Dryland Natural Resource Centre (DNRC)
- 30 Egerton University
- 31 Emayian Integrated Development Organization (EIDO)
- 32 Farm Input Promotions Africa Ltd. (FIPS-Africa)
- 33 Grow Bio – Intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya (GBIACK)
- 34 Hand in Hand Kenya
- 35 INADES Formation – Kenya (IFK)
- 36 Institute for Peace Development and Innovation (IPSIA) Meru
- 37 Institute of Culture and Ecology (ICE)
- 38 International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)
- 39 KALRO Katumani, Machakos
- 40 KALRO Kibos Kisumu
- 41 Kate's Organics
- 42 Katoloni Community Based Organisation
- 43 Kenya Food Rights Alliance
- 44 Kenya Institute of Organic Farming (KIOF)
- 45 Kenya Organic Agricultural Network (KOAN)
- 46 Kitui Development Centre (KDC)
- 47 Laikipia Permaculture Centre (LPC)
- 48 Maendeleo Endelevu Action Programme (MEAP)
- 49 Manor House Agricultural Centre (MHAC)
- 50 Nainyoiye Community Development Organization (NCDO)
- 51 Neighbors Initiative Alliance (NIA)
- 52 Network for Eco farming in Africa (NECOFA)
- 53 Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya (OACK)
- 54 Pastoralists Community Initiatives and Development Assistance (PACIDA)
- 55 Permaculture Research Institute (PRI) Kenya
- 56 Resources Oriented Development Initiative (RODI – Kenya)
- 57 Rural Farmers Research Network
- 58 Rural Initiatives Development Program (RIDEP)

- 59 Schools and Colleges Permaculture Kenya
- 60 Seed Savers Network
- 61 Self Help Africa (SHA)
- 62 Slow Food Convivia Association of Kenya (SFCAK)
- 63 Support for Tropical Initiatives (STIPA)
- 64 Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Program (SACDEP – Kenya)
- 65 Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resource Technologies (SMART) Initiatives
- 66 Sylvia Baskets
- 67 Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum (TTWF)
- 68 Tembea Youth Centre
- 69 The mission of Tenwek Hospital Community Health & Development
- 70 Trans Community Organization (TRANSCOM)
- 71 Trocaire Kenya
- 72 University of Eldoret
- 73 University of Rongo
- 74 Utooni Development Organization (UDO)
- 75 Vi Agroforestry (VIAFP)
- 76 Youth Action for Rural Development (YARD)
- 77 Youth in Agroecology and Business Learning Track Africa (YALTA)