

Stocktaking workshop:

*Agroecology policy developments
in Eastern & Southern Africa*

Wednesday 12.03, 9:00-10:30 (CEST) // 10:00-11:30 (SAST) // 11:00-12:30 (EAT)

Setting the scene: Community of Practice on national agroecology policy developments



- **October 2023:**
 - Peer-to-peer exchange on National Agroecology Strategies and related policies in Nairobi
 - Launch: informal Community of Practice with peers from civil society and governments working on national agroecology and related policy developments
- **March 2024:** Launch of brief on National Agroecology Strategies



Agenda



1. Welcome and introduction
2. Country presentations (5'/country) + Q&A

Group A – plenary (by order of presentation)	Group B – break-out room
• Tanzania • Zambia • Zimbabwe • Malawi	• Kenya • Uganda • S. Africa • Rwanda

3. Restitution by group facilitators
4. Open discussion on country processes, potential bottlenecks and solutions





Kenya (1)



What happened since Oct. 2023 regarding your AE-related policy developments?

- The National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS-FST) was presented to the Sector Working Group for Agriculture policies, legislations and Standards for the second time and approved for validation
- The NAS-FST was validated in 2024 July by stakeholders drawn from CSOs, Research institutions, farmers, academia, and private sector
- The National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation was finalized and Launched on 28th November 2024



Share 3 key learning or challenge in the process + how you addressed it:

Challenge

- Inconsistent participation of department/ministry representatives in the technical working group derailed the process as they had to be engaged separately and had financial implications

Learning

- Agroecology Champions (from the government) play a crucial role. They act as spokespersons, defend the process, and help expedite government bureaucracy.
- In regards to resource mobilizations: Cost sharing of budget items in each of the activities, eased the Financial constrains



Kenya (2)



Name 3 key element you would like to highlight from your NAS/AE policy

NAS-FST is aligned with other national policies like :

- Agriculture Policy 2021,
- Vision 2030,
- the constitution of Kenya,
- Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) (2019 – 2029) and others

Coordination: NAS-FST proposes the establishment of structures at the National and County levels to accelerate implementation and enhance monitoring and reporting

Finances for implementations will be mobilized from public finances, the private sector and partners' support



Malawi (1)



What happened since Oct. 2023 regarding your AE-related policy developments?

- AE policy gap analysis – it has been done that has showed that there is low policy support for agroecology in Malawi
 - ✓ The analysis has recommended institutionalizing AE through National Agroecology Strategy
- The Department of Land Resources and Conservation, through the Director, has been engaging the Office of the President and Cabinet to lobby for support for a National AE Strategy. The OPC has given a nod on National AE Strategy
- Attending AFSA meetings on integrating AE into climate action was instrumental in learning on developing National AE strategies for resilient food systems



Share 3 key learning or challenge in the process + how you addressed it:

- Need for concerted efforts by AE players
- Government is showing support
- Limited resources for consultative meetings with stakeholders and consultancy services
- The process need to start as soon as possible to leverage on government officials who are in support before elections



Malawi (2)



Name 3 key element you would like to highlight from your NAS/AE policy:

- Importance of AE in achieving sustainable, resilient and just food systems
- Context specific of AE practices for Malawi
- AE monitoring framework; stakeholders modus operandi



Rwanda (1)



What happened since Oct. 2023 regarding your AE-related policy developments?

- The Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources/MINAGRI has developed Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA 5) from 2024/25 to 2028/29 that captured/consider Agroecological interventions and practices.



Share 3 key learning or challenge in the process + how you addressed it

Key Challenges	Strategies
Data Availability on AE practices	In PSTA5, digital tools will be developed and upgraded to enhance data collection & analysis on AE. Example: AMIS (Agriculture Management Information System)
Insufficient knowledge and skills on AE practices	In PSTA5, there is a plan to enhance capacities of farmers on Climate-smart agriculture practices and Climate smart information systems and advisory services



Rwanda (2)



Key elements to be highlighted from your NAS/AE policy

Under National Strategy for Transformation (NST2) and Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA 5) the following elements have been planned in line with AE practices. They include:

1. Soil Health & Fertility Management

- Plantation of agro-forestry
- Develop Radical terraces
- Develop progressive terraces
- Expand area under conservation agriculture
- Promote the Use of organic fertilizers

2. Water Management & Conservation

- Development and rehabilitation of irrigation areas (marshland, hillside & small scale irrigation technologies)
- Management of Irrigation Water User Organizations (IWUOs)
- Adoption of water saving technologies



South Africa (1)



What happened since Oct. 2023 regarding your AE-related policy developments?

- Draft National Agroecology Framework for South Africa (NAFSA) under development by ARC and Department of Agriculture (DoA), and draft presented at DoA Reference Group meeting, comprising of Civil Society Networks on 19 Feb 2025, Legislation incorporating Agroecology (i.e. PDALA) passed by President
- South African government through DoA pursuing other parallel frameworks on environment, namely: Food Systems Transformation in the context of indigenous crops framework; Land Degradation Assessment Framework; and Action Plan for Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) declaration. The draft reports for these were presented at the Natural Resources Management Working Group of DoA on 26-27 Feb 2025
- Civil society participated in Food Systems Transformation pathways, as these deliberations are linked to the developments of National Food and Nutrition Security Plan (NFNSP 2025-30)



Share 3 key learning or challenge in the process + how you addressed it:

- Weak &/or uneven understanding of Agroecology-it needs to be addressed through agreeing to multi-actor dialogue to deepen shared understanding
- Resources and incentives can assist towards promoting higher rates of adoption of Agroecology
- Importance of showing how Agroecology strategy or plan aligns with existing government priorities, policies and plans



South Africa (2)



Name 3 key element you would like to highlight from your NAS/AE policy:

- Alignment to key new legislation making provision for PDALA based on agroecological zones with provision for funding, training and awareness
- NAFSA strategic goals include: ensure food security, adapt to climate change, promote one health, sharing of knowledge, promote circular economy and promote sustainable use of natural resources
- In NAFSA description of agroecological zones aligning to PDALA (i.e. including prioritised policy interventions together with natural resources)



Tanzania (1)



What has happened since Oct. 2023 regarding your AE-related policy developments?

- The launch of the National Ecological Organic Agriculture Strategy (NEOAS) by a high-level government official (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture)
- Formation of the NEOAS Implementation Task Force (ITF) and its terms of reference
- Identification of six key priority areas for the NEOAS implementation
- Participation in the global agroecology convening in Arusha, whereby six prototypes for the NEOAS implementation were identified.



Share 3 key learnings or challenges in the process + how you addressed them:

- The dynamism of Agroecology-related concepts. Experts addressed the challenges by providing clear definitions, indicating some similarities and differences
- Effective engagement, collaboration and coordination of the government and other stakeholders are one of the key factors for any successful policy development process
- Policy development is context-specific; it varies from one country to another country in terms of frameworks and the process requirements



Tanzania (2)



Name 3 key elements you would like to highlight from your NAS/AE policy:

- AE knowledge co-creation and dissemination,
- Access to AE inputs and extension services by smallholder farmers
- Access to AE markets by smallholder farmers



Uganda



What happened since Oct. 2023

- **October 2023**- Presentation of draft text to the National Agroecology Actors Platform during the symposium
- **Dec 2023**: Validation and meeting with Core Team
- **Jan 2024**: New consultant hired to integrate comments & present revised text
- **Feb to May 2024** - Consultative Meetings & Engagements with MDAs and other stakeholder
- **June to July 2024** – Consolidation of views and core team meetings
- July 2024 – Presentation of the NAS to the MAAIF senior Management
- **August 2024** – Stakeholders meeting to address comments from Senior Management
- **October 2024** – Presentation to Senior Management (1st)
- **October 2024** – Stakeholder presentation during the National Agroecology Actors Symposium
- **November 2024** - 2nd presentation to Senior Management
- **Dec 2024**: Validation meeting with MDAs on the revised text
- **Jan to Feb 2025**: Re-strategizing meeting with Minister of Agriculture on NAS approval
- NAS now at approval stage, Memo requesting for approval submitted to Permanent Secretary



Key Learnings

1. **Attitudes & Perceptions** – Resistance & slow adoption of agroecology
2. **Limited Financing** – Insufficient budget allocation
3. **Conflicting Priorities** – GMO policies taking precedence over agroecology



Key NAS/Agroecology Policy Highlights

- ✓ **Nationwide Implementation** – Institutionalizing agroecology across Uganda
- ✓ **Prioritized Funding** – Advocating for dedicated financial support
- ✓ **Agroecology as a Sustainable Food System** – Positioning agroecology as a key pillar in food security





Networking for a greener Africa



Networking for a greener Africa



Zambia (1)



What happened since Oct. 2023 regarding your AE-related policy developments?

- Committee and consultant in place
- Data collection tools for stakeholder engagements developed and approved
- Consultant drafting the Zero Draft



Share 3 key learning or challenge in the process + how you addressed it:

- Coordination, Resource mobilisation and Government participation is important. These are key learning areas and sources of challenges.
- Established lean committee to work with consultant, coordinated resource mobilisation and having Government participate in all meetings has helped



Malawi (2)



Name 3 key element you would like to highlight from your NAS/AE policy

- There is consensus between Govt and CSOs to develop the NAS
- There is consensus for common definition and understanding of AE (among all stakeholders)
- Strong emphasis on implementation, M&E and resource allocation



Zimbabwe (1)



What happened since Oct. 2023 regarding your AE-related policy developments?

- Consultative processes leading to development of draft National AE strategy
- Coordination platform established hosting lessons sharing and key updates on AE research and promotional activities
- National AE strategy adopted by government as Agricultural Sector Strategy anchored by the main Agric Policy



Share 3 key learning or challenge in the process + how you addressed it:

- Funding for policy development: addressed by fostering partnerships with technical and development partners
- Limited coordination: establishment of multistakeholder platform and creating inter and intra Ministerial linkages, and lack of strong institutional structure that facilitates communication between the Gvt, Civil society, Private players, development partners, and communities around the AE and NBSAPs.
- Limited knowledge and awareness: accelerated training of extension and practitioners, increased awareness programmes, communication platforms, and government-led and development partner-supported outreach



Malawi (2)



Name 3 key element you would like to highlight from your NAS/AE policy:

- Research and Development
- Capacity building and awareness raising
- Marketing and market development

Thank you!