



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF WEST POKOT



WEST POKOT COUNTY AGRO-ECOLOGY POLICY JUNE, 2025

FOREWORD

Article 174 of the Constitution provides that one of the key objectives of devolution is economic development and to provide proximate and easily accessible services throughout Kenya. This constitutes not only food security but a role in carbon sinking as well that mitigates the effects of global warming.

The agricultural sector still faces many challenges such as a steady reduction of agricultural land, low agricultural production and productivity, climate change, poor marketing, market uncertainties and low value addition to agricultural products. High post-harvest losses and unfavorable taxation also hinder growth of agricultural sector. This policy shall be used as a pathway on agro-ecology and inclusive practices within West Pokot County in the agriculture sector. It shall be operational alongside the conventional production principles and policies that are operational and will focus more on ensuring that the ecosystem conservation plays its role in sustainable production and in cleaning up the environment from the effects of pollutants while contributing to food security within the County.

The agro-ecology policy shall not be construed as a replacement to other policies advocating for conventional agriculture but a complementary effort in meeting food production needs in a sustainable environment that ensures conservation of diversity. This policy shall be applicable within West Pokot County and shall involve implementation within all departments in the agriculture and rural development sector and the partner organizations involved in environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation. This policy will also provide a framework for progressive agricultural growth, development and transformation of agriculture into a green, sustainable and viable sector within West Pokot County.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Public participation is enshrined in various Articles of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 among which is in the fourth schedule Part 2 (14) on the functions and powers of the County Government to coordinate and ensure the participation of communities in governance.

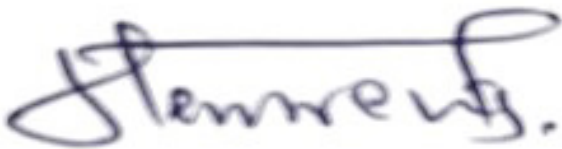
In generating West Pokot County agro-ecology policy, public participation was given emphasis in coming out with community priorities and recommendations. To this end, I wish to greatly acknowledge the CECM, Agriculture, who tirelessly found time to give his input in logistics and organization. To all the farmers, a great thanks to you for the engagement.

I extend my appreciation to Biodiversity and Biosafety Association of Kenya (BIBA) for their immense support and contribution, working with us through the entire policy making process. I would want to thank Greenpeace Africa and Action against Hunger (ACF) for collaborative effort towards development of this policy.

A lot of appreciation to all the participants who could not be mentioned individually but who are all acknowledged for their invaluable input and commitment. These include officers from the County Legal Office, the County Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries and the County Department of Environment.

Finally, it is my wish that this policy document gets the final seal of authority through the legal notice in the Kenya gazette process so that it can finally see the light of day in terms of execution.

Let the Almighty God shower you with His blessings.



**Mrs. Naomi Lemreng,
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASAL	Arid and Semi-arid Lands
ASTGS	Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy
BETA	Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program
CAC	County Agro-ecology Committee
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CASSCOM	County Agricultural Stakeholders Steering Committee
CECM	County Executive Committee Member
CIDPs	County Integrated Development Plans
CIMES	County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
EMCA	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
FLW	Food Loss Wastes
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoK	Government of Kenya
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
IP	Intellectual Property
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ITK	Indigenous Technical Knowledge
ICT	Information and Community Technology
KASEP	Kenya Agricultural Sector Extension Policy
KES	Kenya Shilling
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MTP	Medium Term Plans
MSF	Multi Stakeholder Forum
MOALF&I	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSAs	Non State Actors
PBOs	Private Based Organizations
R&D	Research and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Agriculture: The cultivation of animals, plants, fungi, and other life forms for food, fiber and other products used to sustain life or the art and science of cultivating crops and raising livestock. It includes the preparation of plant and animal products for people to use and their distribution to markets.

Agro-ecology: An approach to farming that “centers on food production that makes the best use of nature’s goods and services while not damaging these resources.” It applies ecology to the design of farming systems; uses a whole-systems approach to farming and food systems; and links ecology, culture, economics and society to create healthy environments, food production and communities.

Agroforestry: A land use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pasture land.

Biodiversity: This is the biological variety and variability of life on earth, it is a measure of variation at the genetic, species and ecosystem level.

Gross Domestic Product: It is the monetary value of all finished goods and services made within a country during a specific period. GDP provides an economic snapshot for a country and is used to estimate the size of an economy and growth rate.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): A broad based approach that integrates practices to economic control of pests. IPM aims to suppress pest populations below the economic injury level.

Organic Agriculture: Organic agriculture is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agroecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. It is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystem and people, relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects and combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved. **Policy:** A course or principle of action by an organization or individual. It is a law, regulation, procedure, administrative action, incentive or voluntary practice of government and other institutions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The agricultural and livestock sector is the most important segment of West Pokot's County economy. The county has varied climatic conditions ranging from the highlands which are cold and receive high rainfall to low lands which are semi-arid. Livestock production mainly beef cattle, meat goats, sheep, camels and bee keeping is the main agricultural activity while mixed farming is practiced in the highlands and mid-lands. Water harvesting and irrigation have proven successful in improving productivity of certain crops and have transformed the transition zones.

The practice of agro-ecology is not given attention as most farmers and the agricultural sector authorities remain insensitive to it. A bit of agro-ecological practices are seen in small farms and kitchen gardens but even those who practice it do not make a deliberate effort of conserving the biodiversity. The extension service providers promote both use of synthetic inputs and agro-ecological practices leading to confusion. There should be disaggregation of the categories of farmers to practice agro-ecology and those to practice intensive agriculture.

Several regulations, policies and strategies exist in the agriculture sector but they do not address the matter of agro-ecology directly. The documents mention snippets of agro-ecology; for this reason we do not have a comprehensive document addressing the matter of agro-ecology. Due to lack of a comprehensive guiding policy, agro-ecology is not given a priority in the county planning processes.

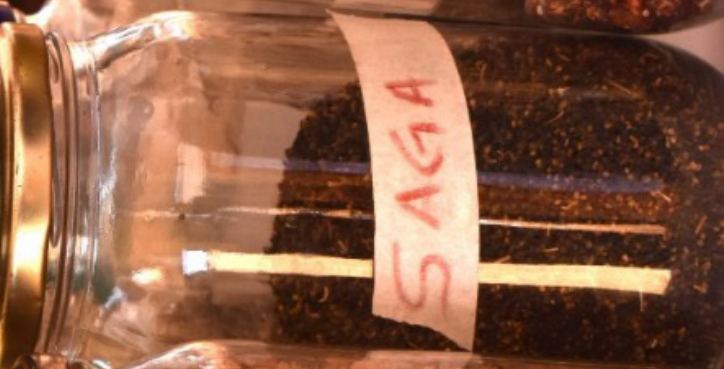
With increased awareness of health benefits of organically produced foods, there is a rise in demand for organic food commodities globally, nationally and locally which attracts better prices for suppliers.

This presents an opportunity for producers who can venture into production of organic food commodities in order to serve the emerging niche market. Involvement of women and youth in agriculture has brought about the need for appropriate technologies and innovations designed for agro-ecological practices. The technologies should promote conservation agriculture while lessening the burden for women and children but also not putting men at a disadvantage.

The vision of this policy is “a food secure and wealthy County with a healthy agro ecosystem anchored on agro-ecological production system.” While the mission is “promoting agro-ecological principles and practices for sustainable livelihoods of the West Pokot County farming community towards food and nutrition security.” The policy goals are: To integrate conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity and ecosystem services in agriculture for increased incomes, food and nutrition security and to provide a frame work for support and mainstreaming of agro-ecology into policies and programs. The broad objective of the policy is to contribute to economically and environmentally viable and socially acceptable development opportunities for sustainable agricultural production in the county through agro-ecology.

The policy statements are centered on the following aspects: Policy influence and advocacy on agro-ecological practices, food governance and enacting seed and food sovereignty, agro enterprise and market development, climate change resilience and natural resource management and finally social inclusion in agro-ecology.

To ensure effective implementation, the policy establishes the County Agro-ecology Committee (CAC) which oversee the coordination and implementation of agro-ecological practices in the county. The policy further establishes the Sub-county and Ward Agro-ecology Committees which will be reporting to the CAC. Monitoring and evaluation of the policy implementation will be aligned to the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES).



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and Context

The agricultural and livestock sector is the most important segment of West Pokot's County economy. About 41% of the total county area is regarded as arable land (GoK, 2013). The agricultural activities undertaken correspond to the three main agro-ecological zones mixed farming, agro-pastoral and pastoral (Jaetzold et al, 2010). On average, 65% of the entire farm produce is sold, and 84% of households derive at least part of their income from on-farm activities. In the mixed farming, where it is wetter and cooler, the main activities are dairy farming, sheep rearing, and cultivation of potatoes and pyrethrum. The agro-pastoral have moderate rainfall and temperatures and are ideal for crop and livestock farming. Households in this zone grow maize, beans, and onions, and keep poultry and goats. The pastoral are drier and support bee-keeping and the rearing of indigenous cattle, goats and camels, mostly by grazing on communal land. With increasing irrigation, the pastoral are evolving into an important producer of fruits and vegetables, such as bananas, mangoes, watermelons, tomatoes, pawpaw, green grams and onions.

Livestock keeping and farming are key economic activities supporting livelihoods of 116,182 households which is more than 80% of the county population. Agriculture contributes to 84% of the total county GDP which translates to an annual contribution of KES 144,059,533. There are 593,032 cattle, 631,526 goats, 582,752 sheep, 10,500 camels and 761,258 poultry. The total acreage for crops stands at 44,102 ha which consists of 40,797 ha for food crops, 2785 Ha horticultural crops and 520 Ha cash crops. The main food crops produced include maize, beans, sorghum, finger millet, green grams, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and bananas. The farmers also grow horticultural crops which include fruits (mangoes, pawpaw, oranges, tree tomato and passion fruit) and vegetables both exotic and local (onions, cabbages, kales, pumpkins, sucha, cowpeas, saga, peas and carrots among others). The fruits and vegetables contribute immensely to food security as farmers use it for food as well as generate income to the households. Cash crops grown in the county include coffee, pyrethrum, sunflower and tea which still has small acreage. The food crops grown do not satisfy the demand of food in the county.

One of the most apparent effects of climate change observed by farmers is the occurrence of floods that wash and contribute to soil erosion in the lowlands. West Pokot County is especially vulnerable since its soils are sandy and generally have low fertility. Climate models predict increasing variability in the onset and duration of rains with significant increases in the risk of floods.

The late onset of rains and unpredictable rainfall lead to more frequent and extreme droughts that greatly impact productivity of rain-fed crop systems as well as quantity and quality of pastures. Increased drought stress and heat are projected to continue between 2020 and 2060. Water harvesting and irrigation have proven successful in improving productivity of certain crops and have transformed the transition zone between highlands and lowlands in Ortum. Within ten years of the introduction of irrigation, West Pokot County has become a major producer of onions nationally; there are plans to increase water harvesting and irrigation on individual farms in the coming years. The County Government of West Pokot has subsidized the farmers through ploughing and provision of farm inputs to needy farmers.

The County Government's efforts to vaccinate livestock have quickly and successfully combated the spread of diseases in West Pokot County. Vaccination is important in the county, in view of the high rates of animal migration from neighboring Turkana and Baringo counties and Uganda. Agricultural extension services in the county have limited reach; County Government extension officers, while well trained and experienced, are too few to effectively cater for the needs of producers in the county. In addition, county budget allocation for new hiring and support for field activities remains low. In the face of this challenge, there has been notable collaboration between public, private, and non-governmental bodies.

The County Government is finalizing a policy document on coordination, harmonization, and funding of programs. The document is targeting the agricultural sector, with major focus on activities that address key aspects of climate change adaptation and preparedness.

1.2. Situational Analysis

Agriculture (Crop and Livestock Production)

It is widely acknowledged food output will need to increase to meet the demands of the growing population. The county is currently experiencing a shift towards the high input and resource intensive farming systems which require large amounts of inputs (pesticides and fertilizers) to increase agricultural production. This raises concerns not only about the costs and the potentially harmful environmental effects but also affordability in consideration of the prevalently high poverty levels (67%). The overdependence on external inputs limits space for local indigenous knowledge and innovation.

There exists a rich plant and animal biodiversity in the county. Such plant and animal genetic materials include planting materials and breeds from which plants can be grown and livestock reared respectively.

Farmers have over the generations been preserving and using own indigenous breeds and planting materials thus safeguarding the diversity of livestock and crops suitable for the local environment. However, there is limited exchange and sharing of seeds among farmers towards production of food coupled with the changing climate change impacts worsening the genetic biodiversity. This necessitates for bulking, multiplication and sharing of breeds and planting materials eventually playing a significant role in agricultural production leading to food security.

The continued degradation of land, soil and water still remains a formidable challenge to agricultural production. This is attributed to unsustainable agricultural practices such as continuous mono cropping, overstocking, and opening up of new agricultural lands, land fragmentation, wanton cutting of trees for charcoal burning and the destruction of water catchment areas through poor land husbandry practices and forest encroachment. Some of the impacts include poor soil health and low soil fertility culminating to the loss of biodiversity which require the need the development of this policy to address restoration and rehabilitation measures.

The adverse impacts of climate change and its extremes e.g. drought and floods leading to significant livelihood losses. The county experiences drought every 2 to 3 years that alternates with episodes of floods. Drought leads reduced crop yield and loss of livestock, loss of vegetation cover that exposes the soil to being eroded. The resultant loss of vegetation leads to decline in soil health and biodiversity. Impacts of floods leads to loss of crop land, displacement and damage to critical infrastructure such as roads, markets and irrigation etc. All this affects all the dimensions of food security.

In the county, ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition are all key efforts to eradicating undernutrition. Despite stunting having declined from 44.9% to 41.4%, most residents of the county still do not meet the recommended dietary intake of nutritious food such as fruit and vegetables (SMART Survey, 2024). Majority of the diets are cereal-based, which leads to frequent inadequate dietary intake. In recent years, the rising prevalence of undernourishment, food insecurity and hunger are eroding the progress of close to two decades.

CHAPTER 2: POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN RELATION TO AGRO- ECOLOGY

International and Regional Frame Work

i. Sustainable Development Goals

Transformation of agro-ecological systems is significant to achieving the multiple and interlinked objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Agro-ecology can aid in reducing poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 10), by contributing to decent work (SDG 8) and ending hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture (SDG 2). The SDG 2 target 2.4 and 2.5 estimates that by 2020, the world should maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species. This includes materials developed through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels. Those that promote access to fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed and also that by 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. Adopting agro-ecology as an agricultural approach can therefore help to shift to a sustainable and resilient path that provides enough, safe and nutritious food while respecting human rights.

2.2. National Policies and Legal Frameworks

i. Constitution of Kenya 2010

The Constitution of Kenya (2010) provides the foundation for formulation of legislation, policies and strategies for agro-ecology through relevant articles. In Article 43 on Economic and Social rights, the constitution states that “every person has a right to be free from hunger, and to have adequate food of acceptable quality”. It goes further to guarantee the right to a clean and healthy environment under the Bill of Rights (Chapter 4, Article 42) which provides that every Kenyan has a right to a clean and healthy environment. In chapter 5 on Land and Environment, article 69 provides for obligations in respect of the environment while Article 72 requires Parliament to pass legislation relating to the environment. In Article 11 under Culture, the Constitution recognizes the roles of science and indigenous technologies in the development of the nation. Further, it provides that legislation will be enacted to recognize and protect ownership of indigenous seeds and plant varieties and use by communities.

ii. Vision 2030

Kenya Vision 2030, the country's long-term development blueprint, together with the Medium –Term Plans (MTPs) recognize the role of the environment and natural resources in achieving this aspiration. MTP III (2018-2022) proposed to establish policies and strategies to promote biodiversity, organic agriculture and food safety. However, these are yet to be fully operationalized.

iii. Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda 2022 – 2027

The Bottom Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) recognizes agriculture as an engine of economic growth as well as support for livelihoods through adoption of a 3P solution (people, planet, profit) approach to promoting environmental management. The Constitution and the development agenda therefore set the foundation for the Agro-Ecology Policy.

iv. Agricultural Policy 2021

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation (MOALF&I) in collaboration with County governments and relevant stakeholders, has taken the initiative to formulate the Agricultural Policy which forms the basis of legislation, strategies, plans, projects and programmes for the country's agricultural development. Respective agriculture commodity based and county agricultural policies and legislations are expected to conform to the Agricultural Policy. The Policy clearly specifies roles of National and County Governments and recognizes promotion of agro-ecology in the attainment of food and nutrition security. This justifies the need to develop agro-ecology policy to guide implementation of activities.

v. Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS)

2019 – 2029

The strategy emphasizes sustainable production/farming and soil management practices that will ensure future generations of Kenyans continue to benefit from agriculture. The strategy recognizes the declining biodiversity and need to balance the protection of biodiversity as agricultural systems modernize. The ASTGS prioritizes three anchors to drive the 10-year transformation, with specific targets set for the first five years, which focuses on increasing small scale farmer incomes, agricultural output and value addition and household food resilience. This can only be achieved by integrating agro-ecology practices hence the need for agro-ecology policy.

vi. National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, 2011

The Policy states that the Government will ensure that safe and high quality food is available to all Kenyans, at all times, by creating public awareness on relevant issues, and by setting, promoting and enforcing appropriate guidelines, codes of practice, standards and a regulatory framework.

It emphasizes on food quality and safety in all stages of the food chain from production to consumption and promotion of safe practices in food production (crop, livestock and fisheries). Agro-ecology has the potential to deliver both nutrition dense foods and food safety.

vii. National Agricultural Soil Management Policy, 2020

The policy proposes a wide range of measures and actions responding to key agricultural soil issues and challenges. It provides a framework for an integrated approach to sustainable management of agricultural soils. The policy highlights the various challenges facing our soils and proposes various policy measures to address them. It also recommends strong institutional and governance measures to support the achievement of the desired objectives which will be achieved through agro-ecology policy.

viii. Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy 2017 – 2026

The broad objective of the Strategy is to adapt to climate change, resilience of agricultural systems while minimizing emissions for enhanced food and nutrition security and improved livelihoods. However, the strategy does not provide a holistic path towards sustainably attaining food and nutrition security in conformity with the 13 principles of agro-ecology.

ix. Crops Act, 2013

The act stipulates that “land owners and lessees of agricultural land, being stewards, have the obligation to cultivate the lands they own or lease and make the land economically productive on a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner”. It further emphasizes on provision of rules for ensuring food safety including handling, transportation, processing and market standards of food crops and crop products. However, the policy does not limit use of synthetic pest control products. The agro-ecology policy therefore promotes integrated pest management.

x. The Climate Change Act No 11 of 2016

This act provides for a regulatory framework for enhanced response to climate change; to provide for a mechanism and measures to achieve low carbon climate development, and for connected purposes. The act is applied in all sectors of the economy by the national and county governments to mainstream the principle of sustainable development into economic planning and decision making on climate change response; integrate climate change into the exercise of power and functions of all levels of governance and to enhance cooperative climate change governance between the national government and county governments and promote low carbon technologies, improve efficiency and reduce emissions intensity by facilitating approaches and uptake of technologies that support low carbon, and climate resilient development. Agro-ecology actions is both an adaptive and mitigative measures towards climate change and achievement of food security.

xi. Range Management and Pastoralism Strategy 2021-2031

The strategy seeks to guide decisions in land use, planning and investments to ensure sustainable development in the rangelands of Kenya, with a clear road-map of resource exploitation and management. The strategy aims at ensuring that rangeland resources are managed sustainably with the active involvement of all the stakeholders from the State and non-state actors which will be provided by the agro-ecology policy.

2.3. West Pokot County Policies and Legal Framework

i. West Pokot County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027

The CIDP provides a framework for identifying communities' needs and prioritizing strategies, projects and programs that address local level needs while reflecting on global and national priorities. It facilitates meaningful community participation and empowerment in the development process and promotes complementarity amongst the various stakeholders at the county level. Integration of the agro-ecology policy into the CIDP will support the County to implement sustainable agro ecological practices and principles.

ii. West Pokot County Climate Change Framework Policy; Sessional Paper

Number 2 of 2021 In this policy, there is a provision that elaborates intervention measures, strategies and plans that enable West Pokot County to adapt to climate change and achieve the goal of low carbon climate resilient development through the Department of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Unit.

iii. West Pokot County Climate Finance Policy; Sessional Paper Number 3 of 2021

The Policy provides for climate financing mechanisms to facilitate adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change while promoting low carbon sustainable development in West Pokot County.

iv. County Climate Change Fund Act 2021

This is an Act for West Pokot County Assembly to put in place the framework and mechanisms for mobilization and facilitation of the County Government, communities and other stakeholders to respond effectively to climate change, through appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures and actions and for connected purposes.

v. The West Pokot County Climate Change Fund Regulations 2022

This is the West Pokot County Legislative Supplement No. 1 aiming at operationalization of the West Pokot County Climate Change Fund Act 2021.

vi. West Pokot County Climate Change Unit Action Plan 2023-2027

The action plan provides for development of climate change action which should ensure mainstreaming of climate change into county development plans, programs, strategies and projects for all the wards in the county.

2.4 SWOT and PESTEL Analysis of Agro Ecology

2.4.1 SWOT Analysis

The SWOT analysis focuses on the critical issues impacting agri-food systems, including food security, climate change, biodiversity, while also safeguarding food sovereignty and seed systems.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growing local movements advocating for agro ecological practices, including seed and food sovereignty• Increasing number of smallholder farmers adopting agro ecological practices• Rich indigenous, local, and diverse knowledge available to support agro ecology• Availability of organizations offering certification for agro ecology- compliant products• Presence of agro ecological and innovative agricultural technologies• Emerging evidence highlighting the positive impacts of agro ecology on the environment, resilience, food and nutrition security, and social equity• Potential for co-creating agro ecological practices and knowledge among farmers and other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited integration of agro ecology into national and county policies and strategies• Fragmented and uncoordinated initiatives supporting agro ecology• Insufficient documentation of successful agro ecological practices and lessons for scaling up• Agricultural markets predominantly favor large-scale producers, exacerbating inequities that disadvantage smallholder farmers• Limited market incentives and innovation uptake to support the agro ecological transition• Low levels of circularity in managing solid, food, and electronic waste due to inadequate waste collection, recycling infrastructure, limited funding, and lack of awareness at the household level• Inadequate recognition of communities as owners of plant and animal genetic materials, and the absence of legal frameworks for access and benefit-sharing arrangements• Limited integration of agro ecological approaches in research, curriculum, and practice• Inability to access existing funding opportunities for agro ecology• Limited availability and access to bio-inputs for smallholder farmers• Urbanization and shift towards unsustainable "modern" consumption, leading to poor and unsafe diets, limited knowledge on nutritious foods, and high levels of food loss and waste (FLW)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Recognition of agro ecology's potential by regional and international conventions, agreements, and protocols
- Existence of policies supporting agro ecological principles and practices
- Benchmarking and adoption of best practices from countries where policy reforms have enabled agro ecological transitions
- Mainstreaming agro ecology into new and existing policies and plans
- Use of the National Green Fiscal Incentives Policy Framework to promote agro ecology
- Emerging health-conscious population and global/local shifts in demand for safe, nutritious food
- Development of standardized tools and protocols to measure agro ecological transition and its impacts
- Growing need to address the rising health burden from diet-related non-communicable diseases
- Large export market opportunities in developed countries, such as the EU and USA

THREATS

- Acceleration of biodiversity loss due to high-input, resource-intensive production systems, leading to deforestation, water scarcity, soil depletion, and high greenhouse gas emissions
- Rising negative impacts of climate change on agri-food systems
- Inadequate biosafety measures with the introduction of GMOs in Kenya; the Biosafety Act does not protect producers or non-GMO seeds from harmful pollination, and lacks redress mechanisms for health, livelihood, and environmental harm
- Inequity and marginalization of smallholder farmers, indigenous communities, women, and youth in access to land, credit, markets, extension services, training, agricultural R&D, and climate adaptation
- Social and environmental costs of unsustainable farming are not reflected in market prices
- A significant portion of public budgets for climate, agriculture, and development still supports conventional agro-industrial projects, contributing to the climate, food, and biodiversity crises
- Lack of long-term financing aligned with sustainable agro ecology investments

2.4.2 The PESTEL Analysis

This examines the political, economic, sociocultural, technological, legal, and environmental factors influencing the mainstreaming and scaling of agro ecology in West Pokot, Kenya.

Political Analysis

Article 43 of the Kenyan Constitution guarantees access to food as a fundamental human right, and the government is committed to promoting sustainable and equitable resource management. The Kenya Kwanza Government's plan focuses on five pillars: agriculture, enterprise, housing, healthcare, and the digital economy. In agriculture, the government aims to transform two million poor farmers into surplus producers through financial support and agricultural extension services, with productivity targets for key food value chains, including maize, dairy, and beef. The plan also seeks to reduce food import dependency by 30% and revitalize export crops like coffee, cashew nuts, and avocado, while supporting smallholder farmers to enhance food security through sustainable agro ecological practices. These efforts provide opportunities for collaboration between agro ecology actors and the government to achieve the agro ecological transition outlined in the strategy.

Economic Analysis

Agriculture is a vital sector for Kenya, contributing 26% directly and 27% indirectly to the GDP. The country has achieved lower-middle-income status, driven by economic growth, social development, and political stability, yet poverty remains high at 36.1%, reflecting persistent economic inequality. Despite efforts to reduce child malnutrition, child stunting progress has stalled, and undernourishment is on the rise, exacerbated by drought and food shortages. Kenya is the largest food and agricultural importer in Eastern Africa, with maize as the main staple, and in 2022, it was projected to import 900,000 MT of maize to address the supply gap. Ensuring food sufficiency will require increased investment in agriculture and sustainable resource use, as well as engaging the unemployed and underemployed youth, who often view agricultural production and agribusiness as less desirable than white-collar jobs.

Socioecological context

Kenya's food system has undergone significant changes in recent decades, driven by population growth, urbanization, and longer life expectancy, leading to shifts in dietary behaviors. As a result, traditional food consumption is being replaced by less healthy diets, a trend expected to intensify in the coming years. Socio-cultural factors such as religion, food preferences, gender discrimination, education, and women's employment continue to shape food consumption and nutrition patterns.

Additionally, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) play a crucial role in urban markets, contributing significantly to employment, youth, and indigenous communities, with a lack of legal frameworks to manage access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources.

Technological context

The agro-ecological transition requires the integration of science, technology, and innovation across the food system to enhance food security and nutrition. Key innovations include technologies to combat biotic and abiotic stresses, improve crop and livestock productivity, enhance soil fertility, and ensure water availability. Additionally, climate change adaptation, precision agriculture, index-based insurance, and early warning systems are crucial enablers, along with the growing use of ICT, biotechnology, and nanotechnology in agriculture. In Kenya, the rising mobile and mobile money subscriptions, with rates of 143.1 and 84.1 per 100 inhabitants respectively in 2022, present opportunities to leverage digital platforms for education, communication, and awareness on agro ecology. The government's support for SMEs in digital marketing further aids implementation, but for technology to be sustainable, it must address ecological, social, and economic dimensions and avoid neutral technological choices that could have political consequences.

Environmental Considerations

Kenya's agricultural land is mostly arid (52.9%) or semi-arid (19.8%), with only 18% having medium to high agricultural potential. Nomadic pastoralism dominates these areas, and food production is heavily reliant on rain, with 98% of it being rain-fed. This dependency, combined with inadequate storage facilities, low food processing, and market inefficiencies, leads to food insecurity, especially in arid and semi-arid regions. During the rainy season, overproduction causes price drops and food waste. Climate change further exacerbates the situation, with increased droughts and floods, leading to significant food insecurity. In 2021, over 2 million Kenyans required urgent food aid, highlighting the need for transformation in the food system.

Legal and Policy Environment

Food is recognized as both an economic and social right under the Kenyan Constitution, with various food policies, strategies, and regulatory frameworks aimed at guiding the country's development. Agricultural policies emphasize agro ecology to promote sustainability and resilience in food systems, though they lack specific actions for achieving these goals. Environmental sectors highlight the connection between agriculture and biodiversity, advocating for a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, and the improvement of agricultural infrastructure. Health policies focus on ensuring safe and nutritious food for all, while other laws address gender equality and the importance of research for national development. and social inequalities further marginalize smallholder farmers, women,

The strategy provides a comprehensive approach to transform Kenya's food systems into more productive, sustainable, and inclusive ones.



2.4.3 Stakeholder Analysis

The responsibility for scaling up the agro ecological transition lies with multiple stakeholders operating at various levels and scales. Therefore, it is essential to define and nurture the specific roles of these stakeholders in facilitating, synergizing, and supporting the transition process. Based on stakeholder analysis, the key players will include:

(a) National and County Governments

The national and county governments will play a key facilitative role in creating an enabling environment for scaling up agro ecology, providing institutional, legal, financial, and infrastructural support. The Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade, along with the Departments of Agriculture and Trade at the county level, will lead and coordinate the strategy's implementation. Key state agencies such as the Agriculture and Food Authority, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, and Kenya Bureau of Standards will collaborate with both governments and the private sector. County governments will be central to implementing the strategy, requiring cooperation across counties for actions that cross administrative boundaries. Each county will adapt the strategy to its local context and integrate it into their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs).

(b) Non-State Actors

Non-state actors (NSAs), including local and international NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), and producer organizations, will play a crucial role in complementing government efforts to scale up the agro ecological transition. These organizations will contribute by building capacity, influencing policy, coordinating sectors, and networking. They will also partner with the government in providing financial resources and implementing agro ecology projects at both local and national levels. While a few NSAs are currently engaged in agro ecology initiatives, more players are expected to join as the transition progresses.

(c) Private Sector Actors

Private sector actors, including crop and livestock producers and those along marketing supply chains, will complement government funding by promoting the commercialization of agro ecological inputs, products, and practices. Creating incentives and effective engagement structures will ensure private sector investments align with agro ecology principles. The private sector can also advocate for policy and legal issues related to the strategy, promote best practices, and support agro ecology programs through corporate social responsibility (CSR). Additionally, private sector associations will play a key role in strengthening stakeholder networks, promoting good practices, and ensuring services such as quality assurance, market linkages, and capacity building. Development partners will focus on technical support, resource mobilization, funding agricultural marketing strategies, and building stakeholder capacity.

2.5 Summary of Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

Kenya's food system faces several challenges, including fragile agri-food systems marked by declining productivity, land and ecosystem degradation, loss of indigenous varieties, and the rising impacts of climate change. There is also limited awareness of agro ecology's potential, restricted access to bio inputs for smallholders, and insufficient market incentives to support the agro ecological transition. Additionally, food insecurity and malnutrition are driven by shifts towards ultra-processed foods, poorly coordinated markets, and inefficient food supply chains, resulting in high prices, food waste, and contamination. The policy and institutional environment lacks strong support for agro ecology, with limited mainstreaming of sustainable practices, inadequate long-term financing, and disproportionate funding for conventional agro-industrial projects. Research, curriculum integration, and the documentation of successful agro ecological practices are also insufficient. Gender and social inequalities further marginalize smallholder farmers, women, youth, and indigenous communities, with a lack of legal frameworks to manage access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources.



CHAPTER 3: SCOPE OF THE AGRO-ECOLOGY POLICY

3.1. Introduction

This agro-ecology policy shall be used as a guide on agro-ecology and related farming practices within West Pokot County with a wholesome focus on the agricultural sector. It shall be operational alongside the conventional production principles and policies that are operational and will focus more to ensure ecosystem conservation plays its role in sustainable production and in cleaning up the environments from the effects of pollutants while contributing to food security.

The agro-ecology policy shall not be construed as a replacement to other policies advocating for conventional agriculture but a complementary effort in meeting food production needs in a sustainable environment that ensures conservation of biodiversity. This policy shall be applicable only within West Pokot County and shall involve implementation within all departments and the partner organizations involved in environmental conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3.2 Justification

West Pokot County is predominantly Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and is characterized by a rapid population growth which has strained the labor market, social services, natural resources and arable land leading to land degradation. High cost of inputs, low availability of inputs in remote areas, lack of targeted subsidies, low quality inputs, declining soil fertility, inadequate use of modern technology and high prevalence of pests and diseases have led to low and undiversified production. The county is experiencing increased pollution by farm chemicals in the various ecosystems especially water and agro-terrestrial ecosystems which have led to increased consumption of pollutants in food chains thus deteriorating human and livestock health in the county.

With increased awareness of health benefits of organically produced foods, there is a rise in demand for organic food commodities locally, nationally and globally which attracts better prices for suppliers. This presents an opportunity for producers who can venture into production of organic food commodities in order to serve the emerging niche market. Involvement of women and youth in agriculture has brought about the need for appropriate technologies and innovations designed for agro-ecological practices. The technologies should promote conservation agriculture while lessening the burden for women and children but also not putting men at a disadvantage. In spite of the current scenario, there is currently no regulatory framework to define standards for organic agriculture practices in Kenya and the roll out of agro-ecology as a science at the County level. Sensitivity of all the county plans regarding agro-ecology is low hence the need to establish a policy that will lead to improvement of the current scenario.

Agro-ecology has been known to present numerous benefits to the environment in general. Some of the major benefits of agro-ecology are:

- It improves soil fertility and conserves bio-diversity in the ecosystem
- It leads to increased food and nutrition security and improved health through production of diversified food commodities
- It leads to reduced dependency on external inputs thus reducing cost of production
- It is a viable pathway to social and economic equity
- It contributes to sense of pride and confidence in the skills of the farmers
- It leads to strong participation in food system decision making
- It is well suited for farmers empowerment and transformation as it is accessible to small holder farmers that are marginalized by formal agriculture science and are less able to afford chemical inputs
- It provides an economic and political alternative to the conventional commercial farming
- It draws on feminist practices and participatory methods that disrupts capitalist power dynamics.

3.3. Challenges, Policy Goals and Objectives

Despite its significance, agro-ecology has its challenges as listed below:

- Agro-ecology is not resonating well with many farmers who view the practices as backward
- Lack of technical knowhow on agro-ecology by extension staff and civil society organizations
- Agro-ecology has limited support from social movements and government sectors hence receive inadequate budgetary allocation and funding
- Limited policy and legal support on agro-ecology
- Low income levels
- Negative effects of climate change
- Biodiversity decline
- Inadequate research on agro-ecology
- High pressure on natural resources due to rapid population growth

3.4. Principles of Agro-ecology

In order to make agro-ecology a success, the following principles must be adhered to:

1. Recycling: Preferentially use local renewable resources and close the resource cycles of nutrients and biomass as much as possible
2. Input reduction: Reduce or eliminate dependency on purchased inputs
3. Soil health: Secure and enhance soil health and functioning for improved plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and by enhancing soil biological activity

4. Animal health: Ensure animal health and welfare
5. Biodiversity: Maintain and enhance diversity of species, functional diversity and genetic resources and maintain biodiversity in the agro-ecosystem over time and space at field, farm and landscape scales
6. Synergy: Enhance positive ecological interaction, synergy, integration, and complementarity amongst the elements of agroecosystems (plants, animals, trees, soil and water).
7. Economic diversification: Diversify on-farm incomes by ensuring small-scale farmers have greater financial independence and value addition opportunities while enabling them to respond to demand from consumers
8. Co-creation of knowledge: Enhance co-creation and horizontal sharing of knowledge including local and scientific innovation, especially through farmer-to-farmer exchange
9. Social values and diets: Build food systems based on the culture, identity, tradition, social and gender equity of local communities that provide healthy, diversified, seasonally and culturally appropriate diets
10. Fairness: Support dignified and robust livelihoods for all actors engaged in food systems, especially small-scale food producers, based on fair trade, fair employment and fair treatment of intellectual property rights
11. Connectivity: Ensure proximity and confidence between producers and consumers through promotion of fair and short distribution networks and by re-embedding food systems into local economies
12. Land and natural resource governance: Recognize and support the needs and interests of family farmers, smallholders and peasant food producers as sustainable managers and guardians of natural and genetic resources
13. Participation: Encourage social organization and greater participation in decision-making by food producers and consumers to support decentralized governance and local adaptive management of agricultural and food systems.

3.5. Vision

A food secure and wealthy County with a healthy agro ecosystem anchored on sustainable and resilient agro-ecological production system.

3.6. Mission

Promoting application of agro-ecological principles for a productive, sustainable, resilient and socially inclusive livelihoods of the West Pokot County towards food and nutrition security.

3.7. Goal

The goal of this policy is to integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in agriculture for enhanced incomes, food and nutrition security by providing a frame work for supporting and mainstreaming agro-ecology into policies and programs.

3.8. Objectives of the Policy

Broad Objective

To contribute to an economically and environmentally viable and socially acceptable development opportunities for sustainable agricultural production in the county through agro-ecology.

Specific Objectives:

1. To mainstream agro-ecological practices in relevant county policies and plans
2. To promote knowledge and skills development on agro-ecological principles and practices
3. To promote the development of sustainable agro enterprise and markets for agro ecological products
4. To build resilience to food and nutrition security and conserve the natural resource base
5. Enhance social inclusion in agro-ecological practices
6. Engage in food system governance focusing on enhancing indigenous seed and food sovereignty

3.9. Policy Statements

Policy Statement One: Policy Influence and Advocacy on Agro-Ecological Practices

The Department of Agriculture together with its partners will work to address policy issues and carry out advocacy for agro-ecological practices for overall food and nutrition security and environmental conservation.

Most of the existing agricultural policies in the county largely promote conventional agriculture rather than agro-ecological practices. Conventional agriculture is unsustainable, not environmentally friendly and leads to health complications. Agricultural extension services do not have faith in agro- ecological practices which has led to low adoption of technologies by farmers. Women and youth have limited ownership, control and access to land which is a critical resource for agricultural production.

This has translated to low production and reduced incomes due to limited land utilization.

Low stakeholder engagement in budget making process has resulted in inadequate resource allocation in agriculture and environmental projects. Despite agriculture contributing over 80% to the county's GDP, the County treasury still allocates about 7% to the Department which is less than the recommended 10% of the county budget, falling short of the Maputo Declaration to which Kenya is a signatory.

The County Government of West Pokot and its partners will;

1. Sensitize all actors to mainstream all agro-ecology issues into county policies/strategies/action plans and development agenda at the county level.
2. Promote affirmative action to enhance women and youth including vulnerable groups participation on matters agro-ecology, natural resource management and agro enterprise through advocacy and capacity building.
3. Allocate more funds to address issues of agro-ecology
4. Establish a focal person to coordinate and oversee implementation of agro-ecology.



Policy Statement Two: Agro-Ecological Principles and Practices Knowledge and Skills Development The knowledge base for all the actors on matters related to agro-ecology is still inadequate. At the same time, the poor mindset of the farmers coupled with non-existent efforts to improve the knowledge status has led to low adoption of agro-ecological practices. This is compounded by punitive/ restrictive laws that hinder the identification, preservation, storage and use of indigenous seeds. The misconception on indigenous foods and seeds being viewed as inferior and primitive hampers the adoption of agro-ecological practices.

The County Government of West Pokot and its partners will;

1. Capacity build all extension service providers on agro-ecological principles and practices so as to disseminate knowledge and skills to the farmers.
2. Promote the production of diversified indigenous foods
3. Capacity build on utilization of diversified indigenous foods
4. Lobby for repealing and amending punitive/restrictive laws
5. Promote co creation and knowledge sharing and peer to peer learning

Policy Statement Three: Agro Enterprise and Market Development

Improper farming practices, inadequate value addition and marketing are still impediments of increased productivity and incomes for small holder farmers. Poor farming practices are attributed to poor practices in management of soil health, pests and disease management, inaccessibility to quality farm inputs and poor technical skills. This results in low yields and poor quality farm produce that do not provide adequate income for improved livelihoods.

Low involvement of farmers in agro processing is as a result of low capacities of farmers and limited engagement of youth innovators in agriculture. Agro-processing will reduce post-harvest losses and pave way for cottage industries which will provide employment for the youth and increase value of agricultural products.

There is a steady increase in demand for organically produced food both locally and internationally due to consumer health awareness.

The consumers are, however, interested in assurance of the quality of the organic products in the market. Limited access to quality organic products and lack of marketing structures for farmers contribute to low incomes.

The County Government of West Pokot and its partners will;

1. Promote value chain approach to agro-ecological farming,
2. Promote value addition of the agro ecologically produced foods,
3. Promote the development of markets and aggregation of purely agro ecologically produced foods,
4. Promote certification of purely agro ecologically foods

Policy Statement Four: Climate Change Resilience and Natural Resource Management

There is significant loss of biodiversity attributed to the opening up of rangelands into agricultural lands, charcoal burning, soil erosion, and encroachment of water catchment areas including riparian lands. This is due to the increase in the frequency of adverse effects of weather and climate extremes. Encroachment has been a growing threat to sustainable development and poverty alleviation thus there is need to enhance community resilience to effects of climate change and natural disasters.

The County Government of West Pokot and its partners will;

1. Promote water harvesting structures for crop and livestock production
2. Promote farmer managed natural regeneration and enclosures
3. Promote farm agro forestry focusing on indigenous trees
4. Promote on farm soil and water management e.g. terracing
5. Promote mixed farming in line with agro-ecological principles

Policy Statement 5: Social Inclusion in Agro-ecology

Article 21 and Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 stipulates the socio-economic and cultural rights of all citizens with emphasis on the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and persons living with disabilities and members of minority or marginalized communities.

The conventional agricultural system is characterized by uneven distribution of resources and power which lead to unequal access to food. Agro-ecology places a strong attention on human and social values and therefore seeks to address gender inequalities by creating opportunities for women and other vulnerable groups.

The County Government of West Pokot and its partners will;

1. Promote interventions that guarantee rights to land, productive resources and access to services for vulnerable groups and strengthening social and political movements for a more equitable agro ecological food system,
2. Promote startup and incubation projects to increase their income and increase the value addition of their products that target the youth and women.

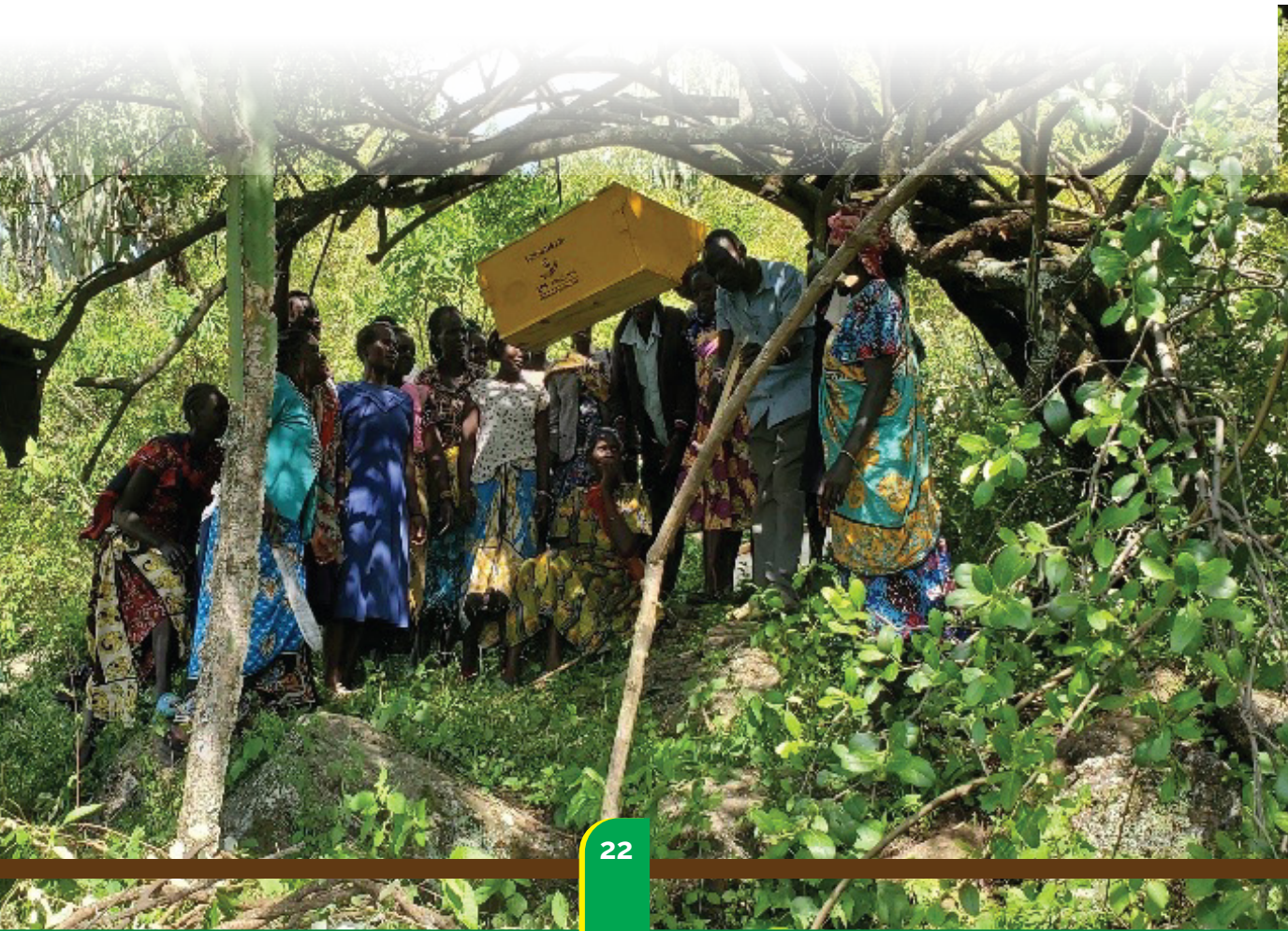
Policy Statement Six: Food Governance and Enacting Seed and Food Sovereignty

Existing seed and food governance structures have little regard for indigenous knowledge. The existing regulations cannot therefore consider indigenous seeds for certification. Due to this reason, we are losing the inherent strong characteristics of the indigenous seeds which in most cases are more suited for the local climate than the hybrids. The indigenous seeds and knowledge are facing extinction if the current trend is not reversed.

There is the need to set up a parallel system for the development of indigenous seeds and technologies so that as capitalists use the hybrids, the agro-ecology conscious farmers continue embracing the indigenous seeds and technologies. Apart from that, there is need to de-criminalize use of indigenous seed and food governance methods. Furthermore, no established seed banks exists on agro-ecology.

The County Government of West Pokot and its partners will;

1. Amend the existing laws to recognize and regularize production and use of indigenous seeds and technologies
2. Promote establishment of seed banks for available indigenous seeds across the county



CHAPTER 4: INSTITUTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE FOR AGRO-ECOLOGY POLICY

To ensure effective implementation of this policy, the following key structures are proposed to oversee mainstreaming of agro-ecology into county planning and implementation processes. The structures provide leadership at different levels for effective implementation of agro-ecology programming. The structures play an oversight role on policy, coordination, programme results management and technical advisory while implementation is carried out at the sub county and ward levels. The structures are the Multi Stakeholder Forum and the Agro-Ecology Secretariat.

4.1 County Multi Stakeholders Forum

The County Multi Stakeholder Forum (MSF) is responsible for planning and implementation of engendered agro-ecology activities. The forum reports to the CASSCOM chaired by the CECM in charge of matters of Agriculture. The roles and responsibilities of the MSF are:

Roles and responsibilities

- Provide the overall guidelines for agro-ecology programming in terms of management, planning and execution of activities, including reviews and modifications if/when needed,
- Promote marketing of agro-ecology products,
- Coordination between all agro-ecology stakeholder(s) involved in the implementation of the engendered responsive agro-ecology programs and recommend action if the collaboration is sub-optimal,
- Deliberate and make decisions on any issue raised by the agro-ecology stakeholders,
- Ensure proper linkages and collaboration with other County Departments/ partners with respect to agro-ecology programming,
- Develop stakeholder engagement strategies for the agro-ecology programs,
- Prepare internal annual, bi-annual and quarterly agro-ecology program implementation reports.

Membership of the MSF

The County MSF will comprise of representatives from the following State and Non-State Actors:

- Relevant National Government Bodies
- Relevant County Government Departments
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Private Based Organizations (PBOs)
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Farmers Representatives – 1 per Sub County
- Academia
- All Research Organizations
- Media

The MSF will be chaired by one of the representatives selected from among the members. The secretariat will be housed in the County Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries with the Desk Officer of Agro-Ecology being the secretary. The composition of the secretariat will be determined by the MSF.

Meetings of the MSF

The MSF will meet on a quarterly basis. However, in situations that demand for more frequent meetings, the Secretary, with the approval of the Chair, may convene a meeting on a need basis.

4.2 County Agro-Ecology Secretariat

The County Agro-Ecology Secretariat will consist of 5 members elected by the MSF members. The County Agro-Ecology Secretariat will be the secretariat of the MSF. The roles and responsibilities of the secretariat include:

Roles and responsibilities of the County Agro- Ecology Secretariat

- . Mobilization of resources
- . Mapping, inventoring and updating the agro-ecology stakeholders
- . Coordination of activities to realize the aspirations of agro-ecology
- . Manage agro-ecology information – collection, analysis and dissemination of information
- . Popularizing and institutionalizing agro-ecology
- . Monitoring and evaluation of agro-ecology
- . Identification and prioritizing resource allocation to areas of highest impact in agro-ecology
- . Initiating studies and policy development in agro-ecology

The secretariat will oversee day to day running of the agro-ecology activities.



4.3 Policy Implementation Framework Matrix

Overall Goal: Integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services in agriculture for enhanced incomes, food and nutrition security in West Pokot County.

Thematic Area	Policy Objective	Key Activities/Interventions	Responsible Stakeholders	Resources Required	Timeline	Performance Indicators	Risks & Mitigation Measures
Policy Influence & Advocacy	Mainstream agro-ecology into county policies and budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sensitize policymakers and planners - Appoint agro-ecology focal persons - Advocate increased budget allocation 	Dept. of Agriculture County Treasury CECMs CSOs	Staff time Advocacy materials Meeting costs	2025–2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of plans integrating agro-ecology - Budget allocation to agro-ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low political will (Mitigation: Ongoing sensitization and lobbying)
Knowledge & Skills Development	Build capacity on agro-ecology principles and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train extension officers - Develop peer-to-peer learning platforms - Promote indigenous knowledge 	Dept. of Agriculture NGOs Research Institutions Farmer Organizations	Training funds Curriculum dev. Demonstration sites	2025–2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of trained extension staff - % of farmers adopting agro-ecological practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor uptake (Mitigation: Pilot demonstrations and model farms)
Market Development	Develop markets for agro-ecologically produced goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support value addition and agro-processing - Promote certification of organic products - Facilitate aggregation and cooperatives 	Dept. of Trade Private Sector Farmer Groups NGOs	Processing equipment Market linkages Certification support	2025–2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % increase in value-added products - No. of certified producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market access barriers (Mitigation: Develop local and regional linkages)

Thematic Area	Policy Objective	Key Activities/Interventions	Responsible Stakeholders	Resources Required	Timeline	Performance Indicators	Risks & Mitigation Measures
Climate Resilience & Natural Resources	Enhance resilience through sustainable resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote water harvesting - Implement FMNR and agroforestry - Support soil conservation (e.g., terracing) 	Dept. of Environment Dept. of Agriculture Water Department CBOs	Tools & materials Seeds/seedlings Training funds	2025–2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area under soil conservation - No. of trees planted - Water harvested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate extremes (Mitigation: Diversified approaches and insurance mechanisms)
Social Inclusion	Ensure inclusive participation in agro-ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support women/youth land access - Launch incubation hubs - Promote equitable access to services 	Gender Dept. Youth Affairs Dept. of Agriculture CSOs	Land policy review Grants and training for women/youth	2025–2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - % of women/youth in agro-ecology projects - No. of incubation hubs established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural resistance (Mitigation: Engage local leaders and targeted awareness)
Food Governance & Seed Sovereignty	Promote use and governance of indigenous seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish community seed banks - Lobby for legal reforms - Support traditional food systems 	Dept. of Agriculture Legal Affairs Local seed custodians NGOs	Legal support Seed storage facilities Community mobilization	2025–2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of seed banks - Policies amended - % increase in indigenous seed use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy resistance (Mitigation: Document evidence and push for policy dialogues)

TCHAPTER 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) will be a critical tool for measuring the success and effectiveness of the agro-ecology implementation. It will help the decision makers, sponsors and stakeholders to learn from past experience, improve service delivery, planning, allocate resources and demonstrating results as part of accountability to stakeholders. An M&E framework will be developed as an integral component to ensure policy objectives are achieved in a cost effective, coordinated and harmonized approach so as to successfully implement this policy.

The County Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration with the MSF will develop an M&E framework.

The M&E framework will be anchored on the County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES). The system incorporates all stakeholders and verifies whether the activities of the county's priority projects and programs are implemented according to planned timelines and targets as indicated in the CIDP; and whether resources are being used in an efficient and effective manner. CIMES will ensure there is harmonized M&E and reporting on agro-ecology by all stakeholders, projects and programs within West Pokot County.







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