



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Cabinet Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY STRATEGY FOR FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION 2024-2033

Kenya's Food system has progressively evolved over the years but continues to be constrained by numerous endogenous and exogenous factors. There is increasing recognition that the food system, the way we produce, distribute and consume food as a country, is not sustainable and is therefore unable to sufficiently meet the needs of the country's growing population as we move into the future. Reports show that while agricultural output grew by 10% from 2018-2022, the burden of malnutrition continues to persist and the proportion of the population with severe food insecurity increased from 15% in 2016 to 28% in 2022.

Kenya's food system is heavily impacted by global climate change while also contributing to a larger share (over 60%) of GHGs and biodiversity loss. The intensity of extreme weather events including droughts, heavy rains and floods have worsened over the years with serious negative effects on food security and the ecosystem.

Kenya has committed to the transformation of Country's food system within the framework of agreed global and regional frameworks such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UNFCCC COP 27, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 15, the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) framework and UN Food Systems Summit (2021). These frameworks and the National Position Paper on the Country's Food System Transformation Pathway Plan recognize agroecology as an approach to facilitate a transition towards more productive, sustainable and inclusive food systems through the harnessing of ecosystem services and natural processes in a productive manner.

Agroecology is an integrated approach that combines ecological principles with social justice to design and manage sustainable food systems. Agroecology emphasizes the optimization of interactions among plants, animals, humans, and the environment while minimizing overreliance on external inputs. This holistic framework not only addresses agricultural productivity but also aims to enhance food sovereignty and empower local communities, particularly marginalized groups such as women and indigenous peoples.

The following key aspects underlie Agroecology:

- A scientific discipline rooted in the application of ecological science to agricultural systems, studying interactions within agroecosystems to promote sustainability and resilience;
- Set of practices that mimic natural processes, fostering beneficial biological interactions and enhancing soil health through organic matter management; and,
- A social movement that advocates for food sovereignty, supporting smallholder farmers and promoting equitable food systems that respect local cultures and traditions;

Agroecology is guided by several principles that aim to transform food systems. Key among these -

- Co-creation of Knowledge by encouraging collaboration between farmers and scientists to share insights and innovations that support and develop food systems;
- Promoting crop and livestock diversity to enhance ecosystem resilience;
- Utilizing local renewable resources to reduce dependency on external inputs; and,
- Focusing on social equity within food systems, ensuring fair access to resources and decision-making processes.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in collaboration with other Ministries, Departments and State Agencies; County Governments and relevant non-State actors, have developed a **National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation (NAS_FST) 2024-2033**. The NAS_FST, 2024 – 2033 is intended to augment Government efforts towards delivering food security and nutrition for all without compromising the economic, social and environmental underpinnings for future food security and nutrition. The overall goal of the NAS_FST is to promote a sustainable transformation of the food system in Kenya to ensure food nutrition and security, climate resilient livelihoods and social inclusion for all. The Strategy employs a holistic agro-ecosystems and food systems approach; advocates for use of principles and practices that enhances the resilience and sustainability of food and farming systems while preserving social integrity; and, focuses on the practical application of agroecology to promote society sensitive and nature-positive agriculture, processing, distribution and consumption of food. The Strategy document was taken through extensive public participation during its development.

This notice is intended to notify the general public of the planned official unveiling of the NAS_FST, 2024-2033 on **Thursday, 28th November 2024**. This will be accompanied by an exhibition of agroecology practices and technologies. **Those invited to attend will be expected to arrive and be seated at the launch venue by 8.00 am.**

Members of the public may access copies of the NAS_FST, 2024-2033 after the launch at www.kilimo.go.ke/Ministry-policies/agriculture/National Agroecology Strategy for Food System Transformation, 2024 – 2033.

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CABINET SECRETARY